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79

INVINCIBLE™

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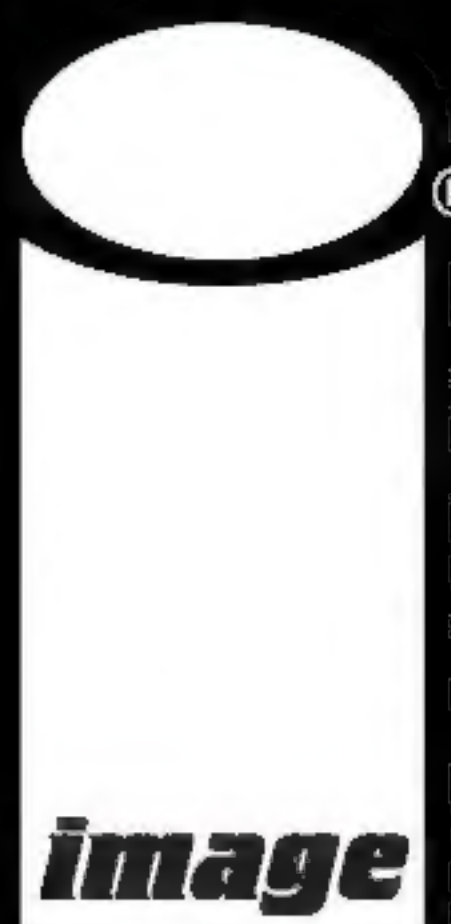


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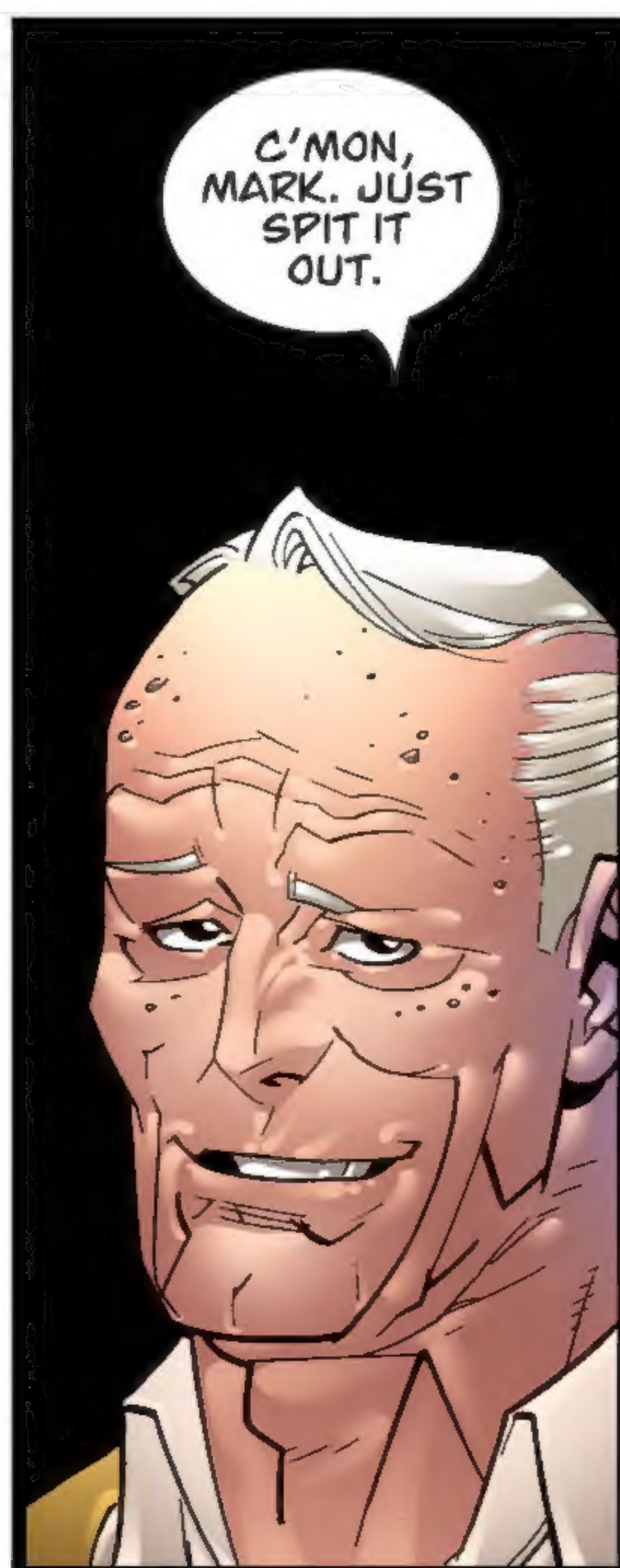
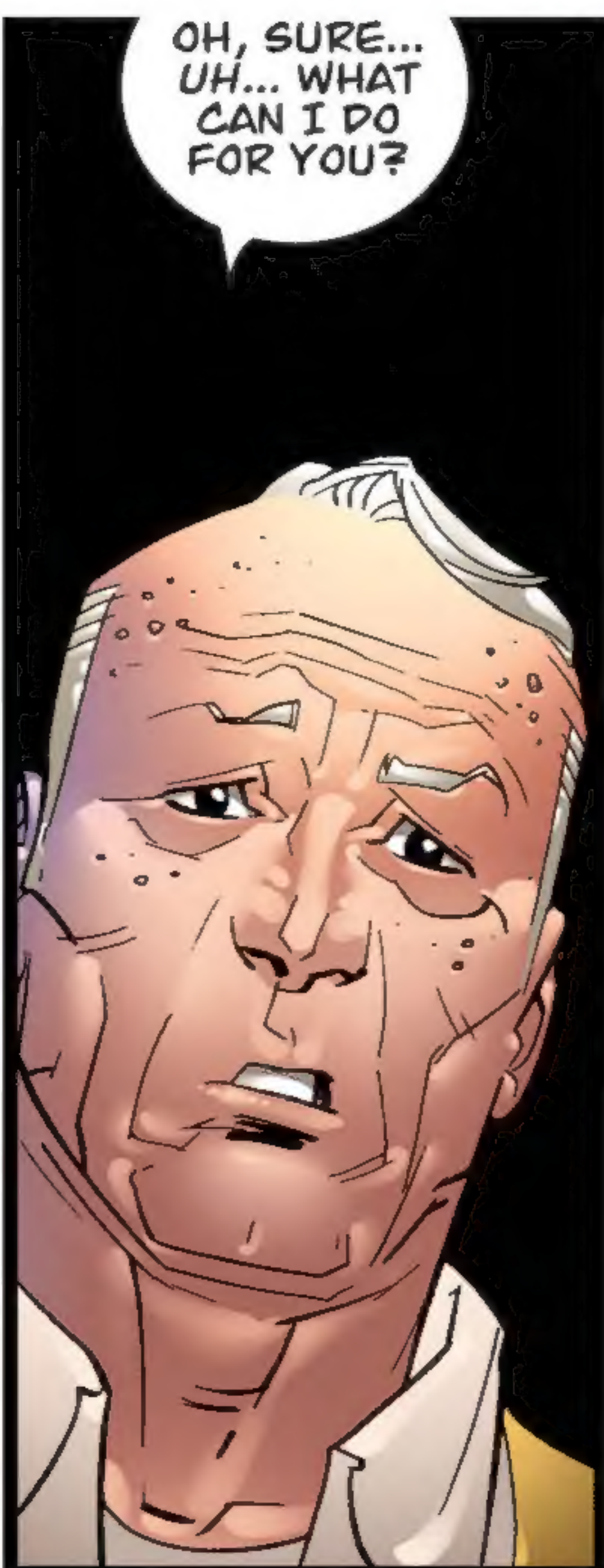


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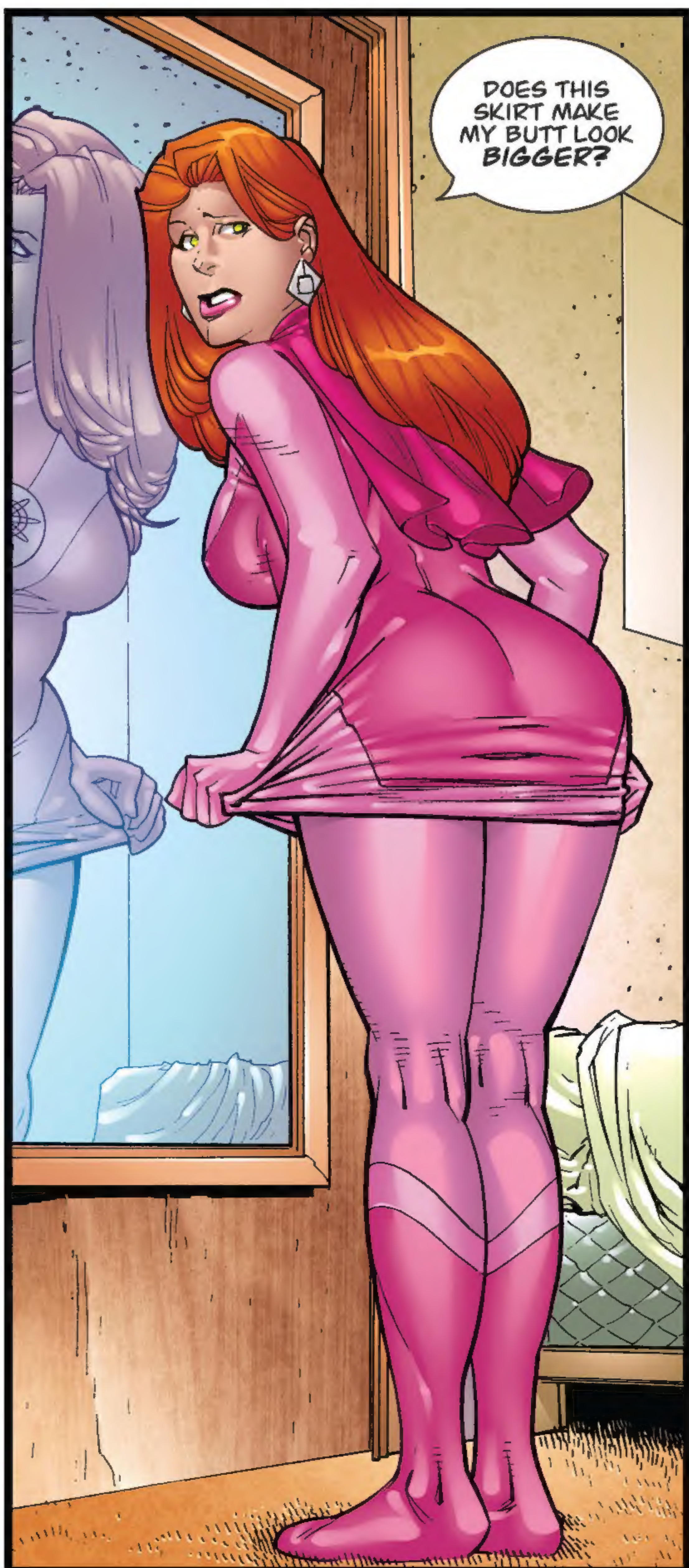
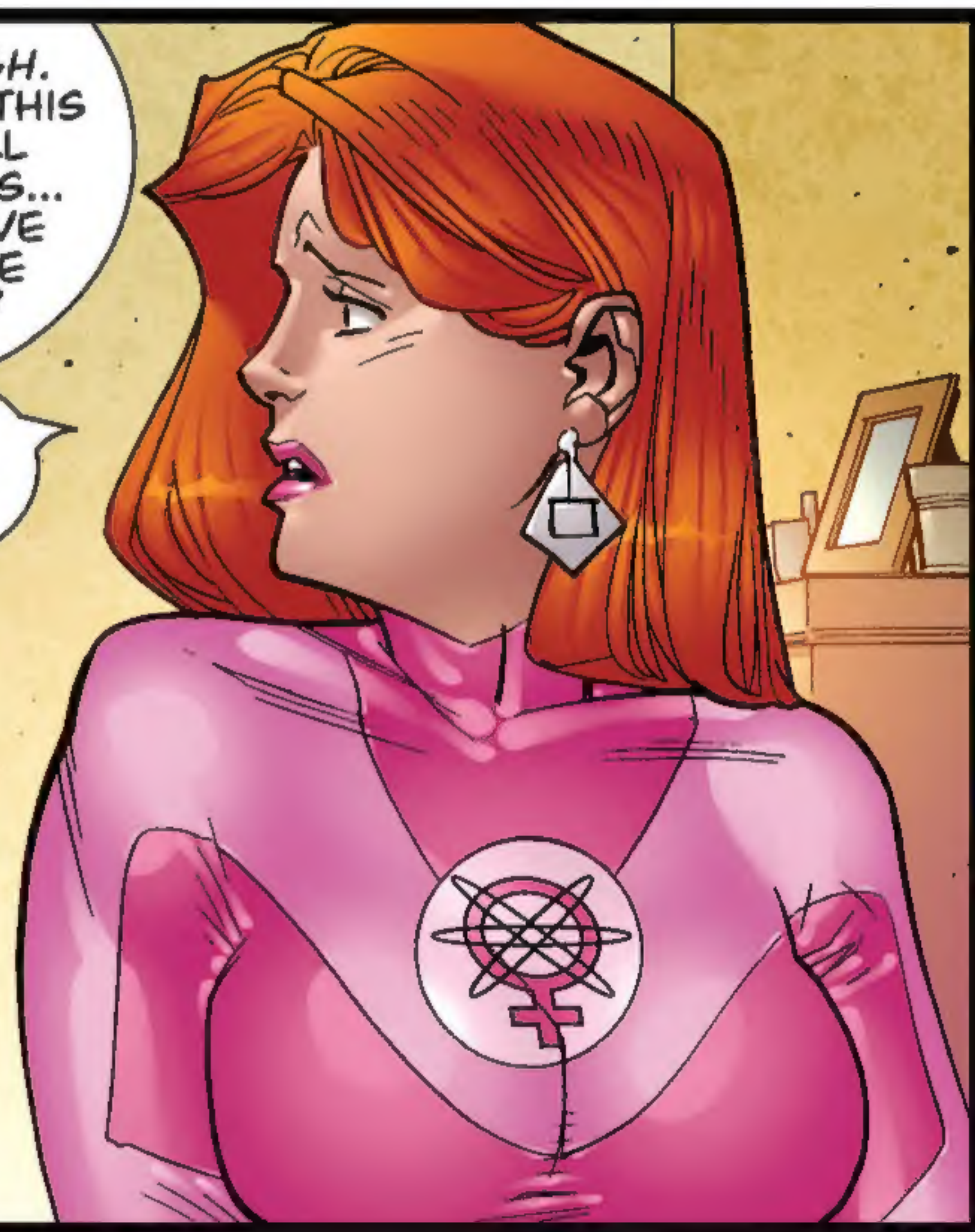


WHOA! ARE YOU GOING OUT? SOMETHING GOING ON?

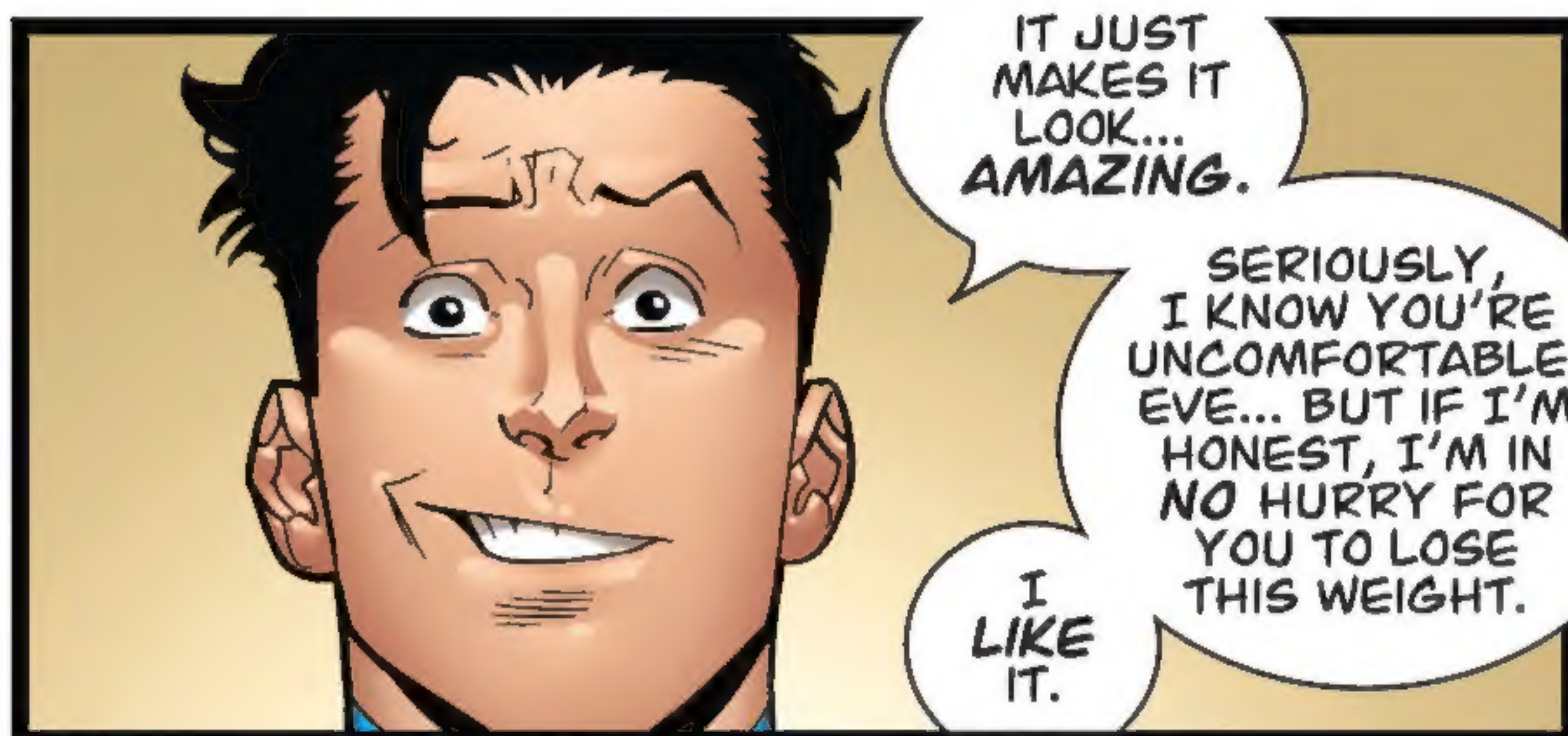


NO, I WAS--UGH. JUST SEEING IF THIS COSTUME STILL WORKED... I WAS... WHY'D YOU HAVE TO COME HOME RIGHT NOW?

JUST...



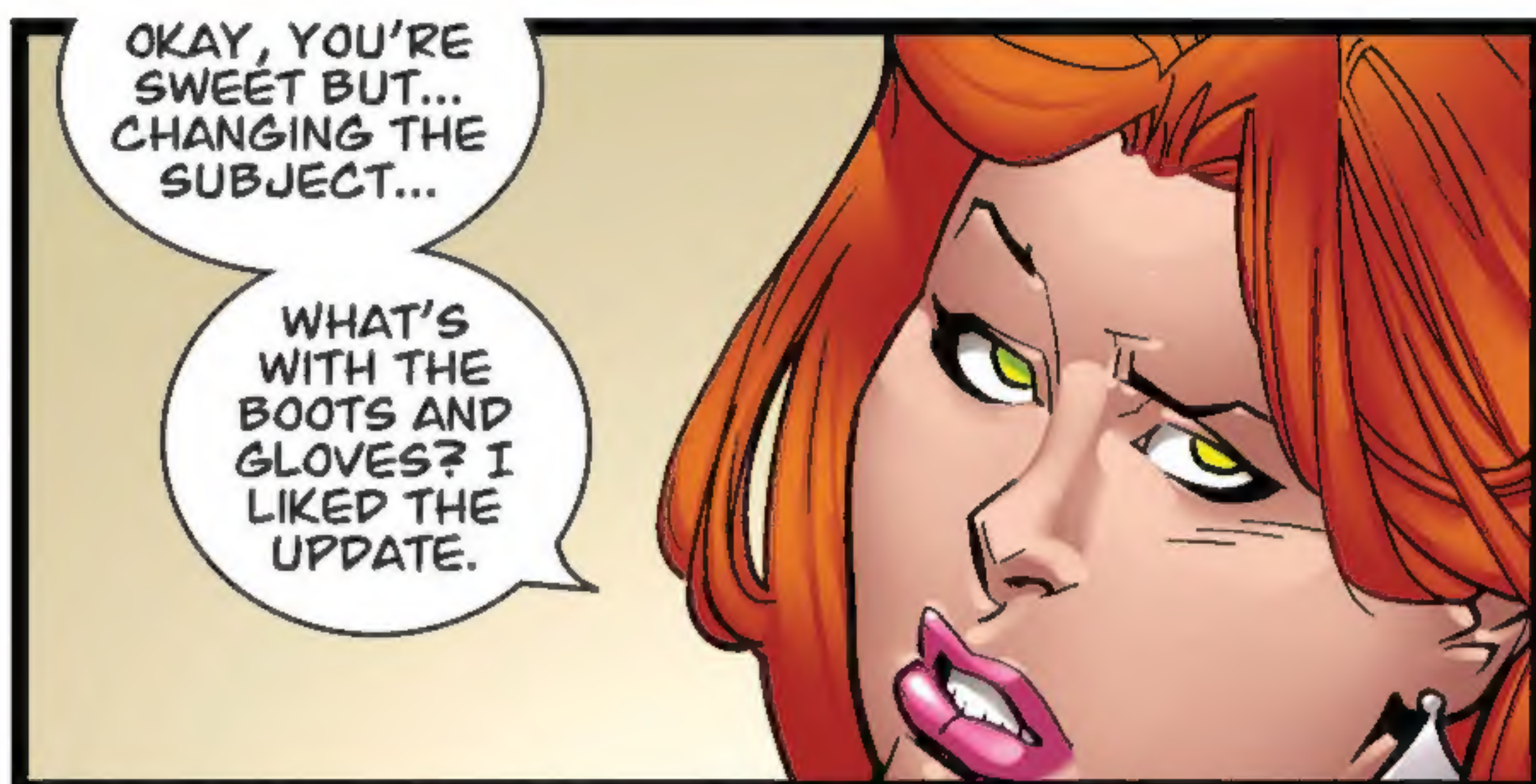
DOES THIS SKIRT MAKE MY BUTT LOOK BIGGER?



IT JUST MAKES IT LOOK... AMAZING.

SERIOUSLY, I KNOW YOU'RE UNCOMFORTABLE, EVE... BUT IF I'M HONEST, I'M IN NO HURRY FOR YOU TO LOSE THIS WEIGHT.

I LIKE IT.



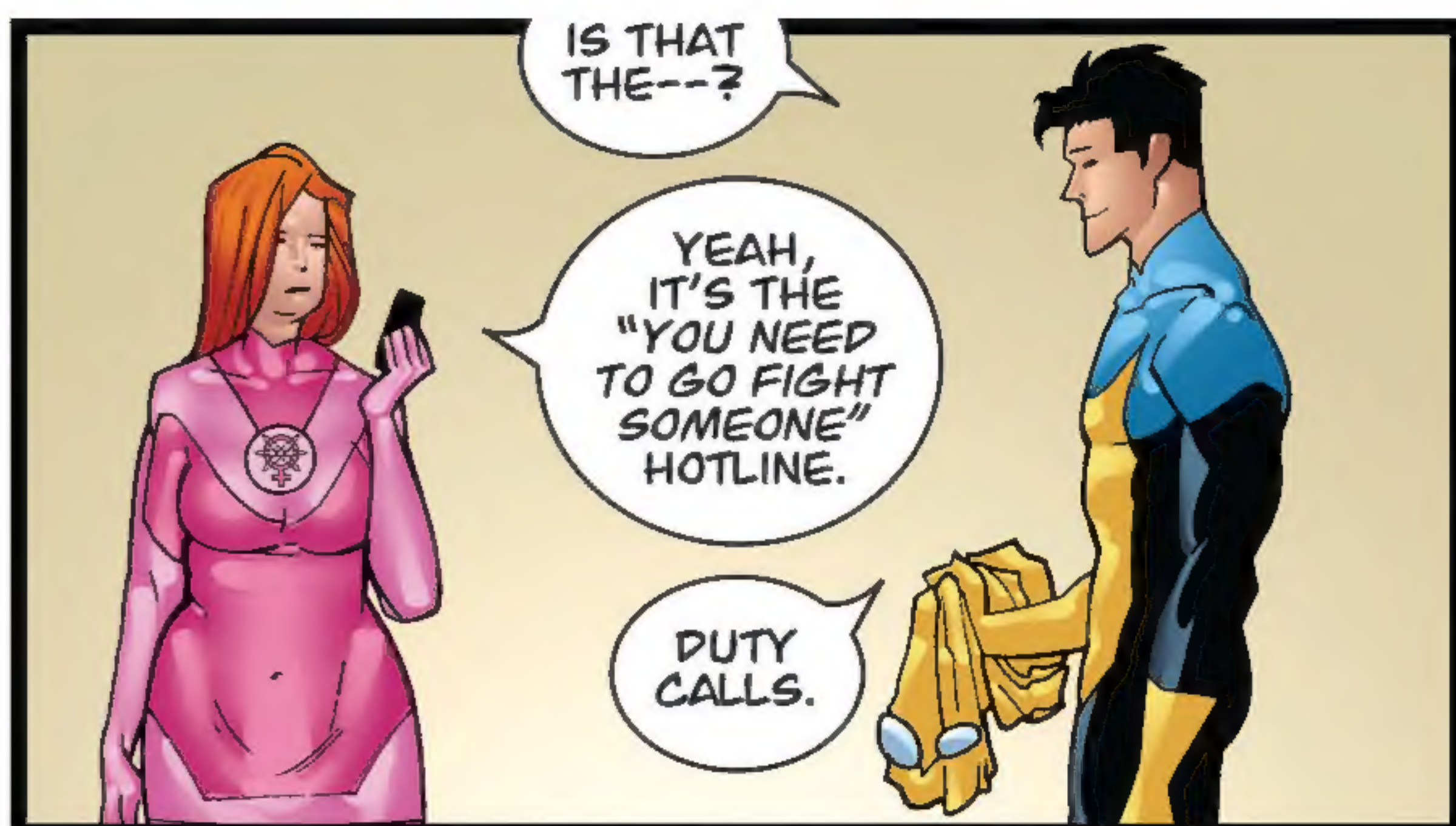
OKAY, YOU'RE SWEET BUT... CHANGING THE SUBJECT...

WHAT'S WITH THE BOOTS AND GLOVES? I LIKED THE UPDATE.



I DIDN'T. I THOUGHT IT LOOKED... LESS UNIQUE. I MEAN, I LIKED IT AT FIRST, BUT IT JUST DIDN'T FEEL--

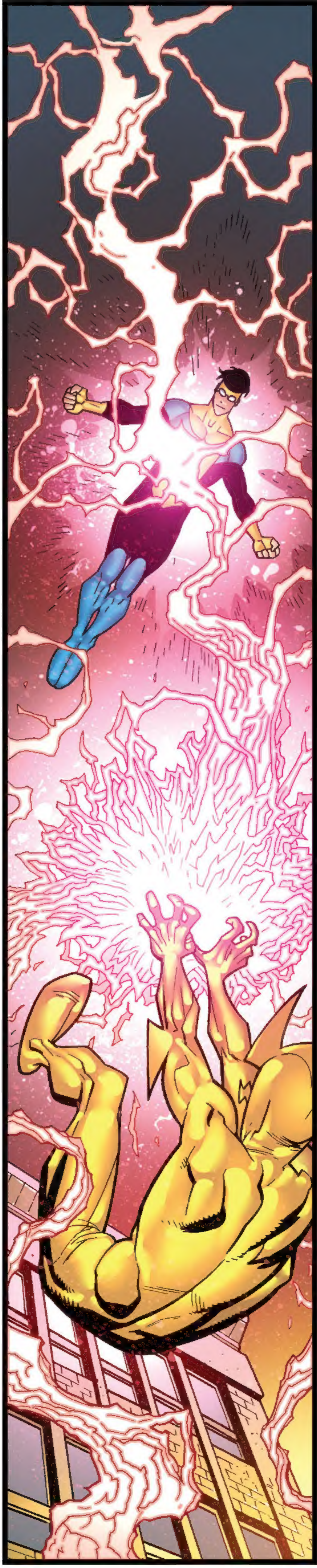
BREET!
BREET!



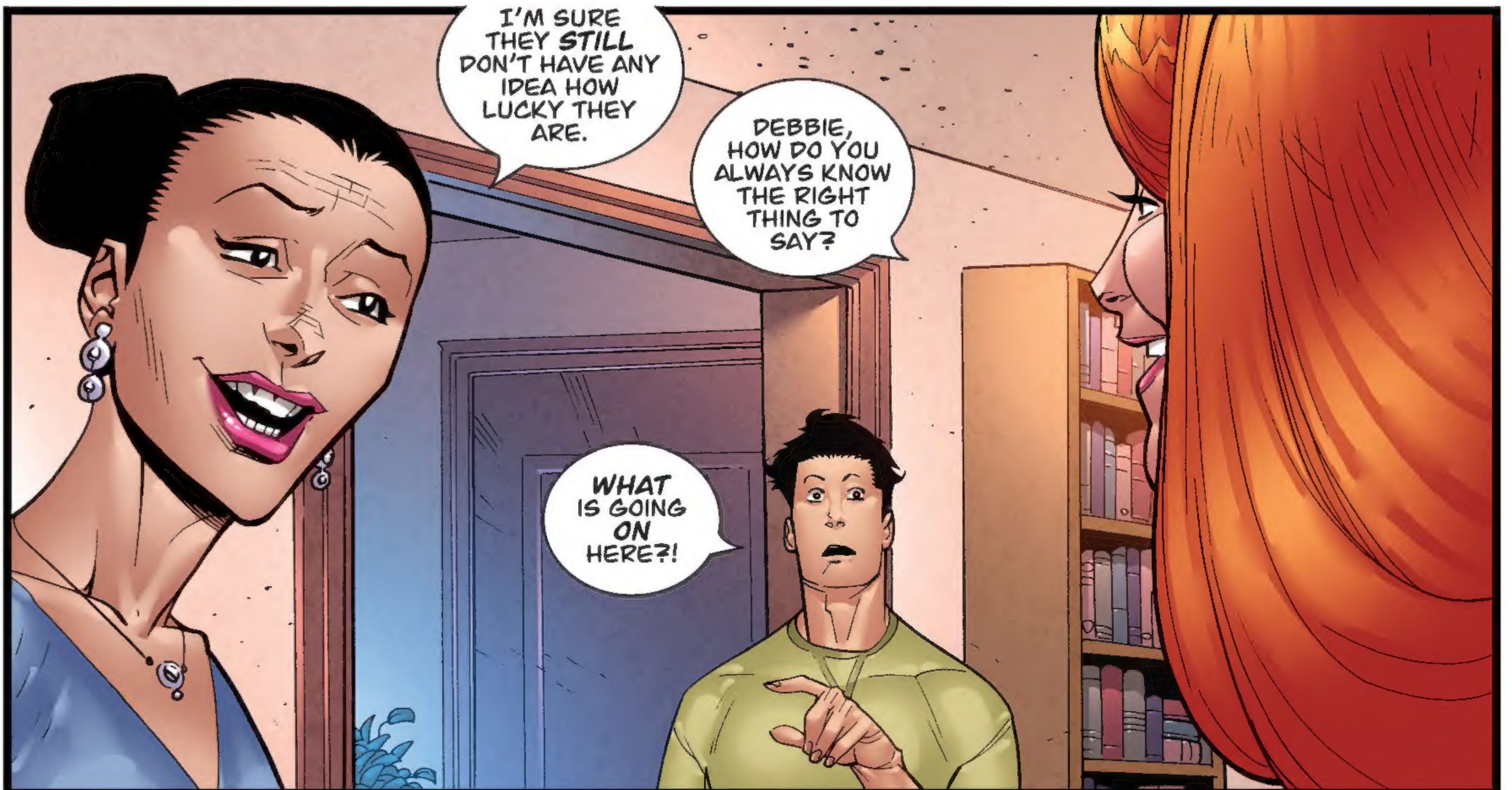
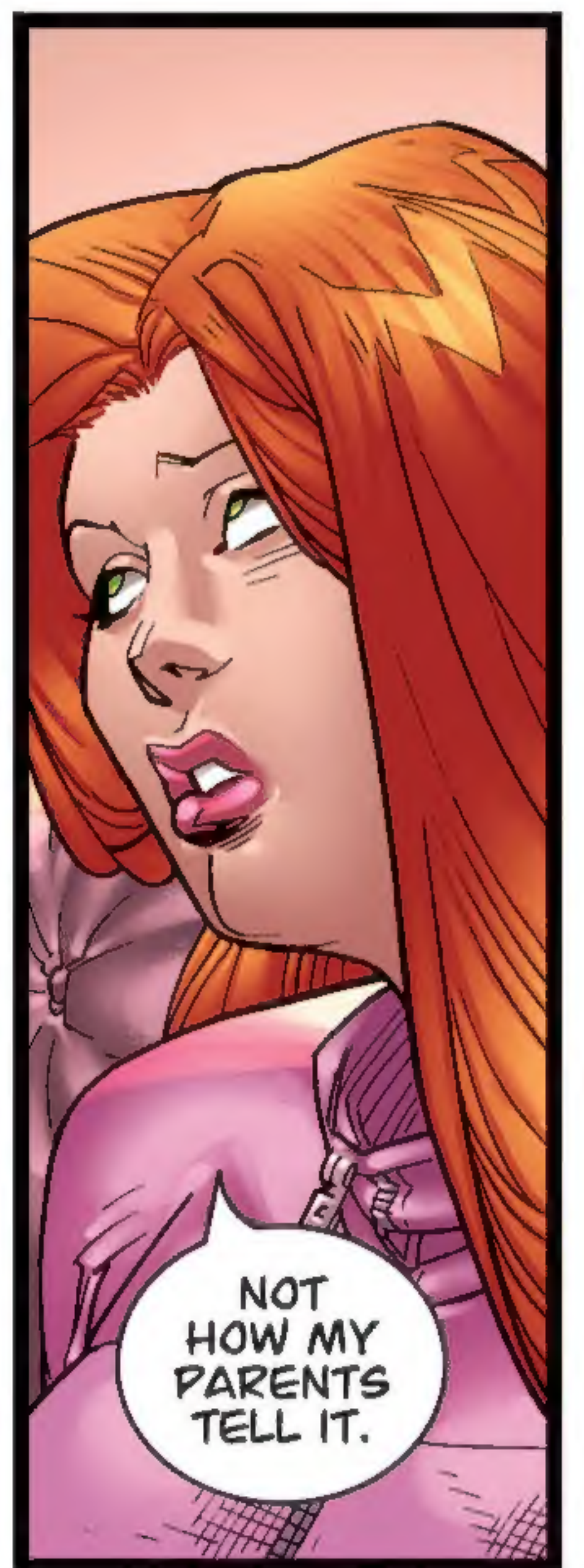
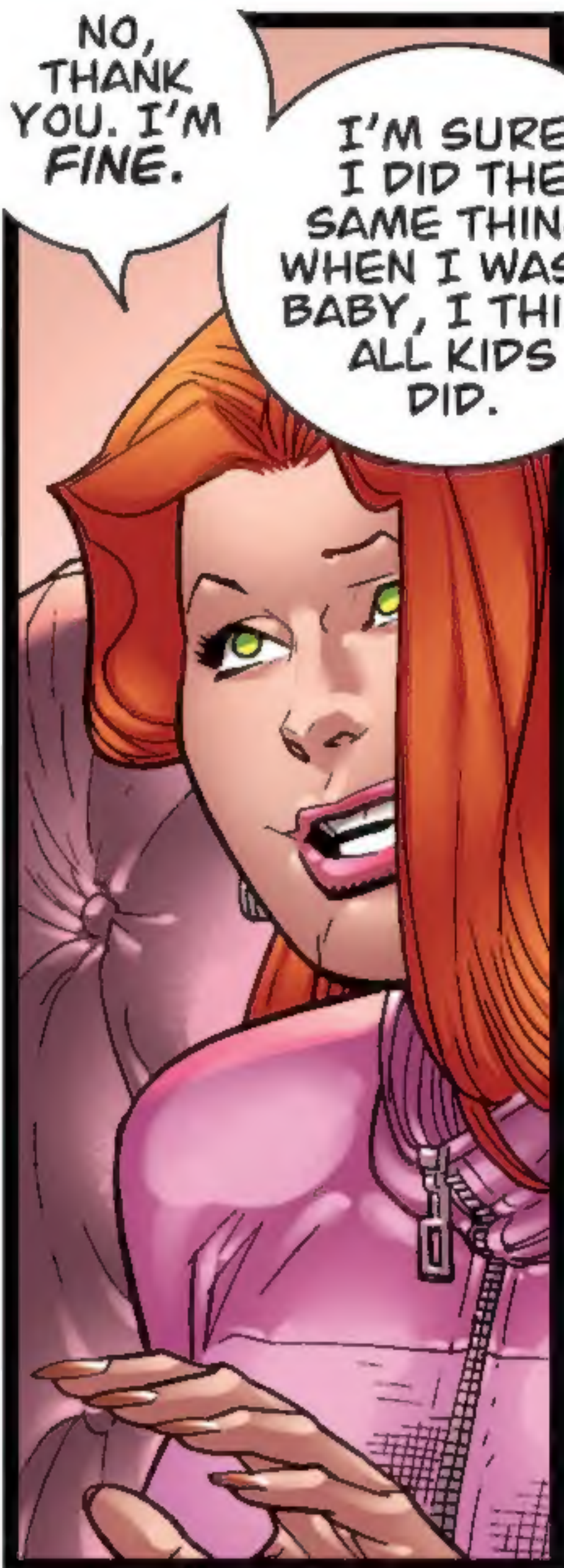
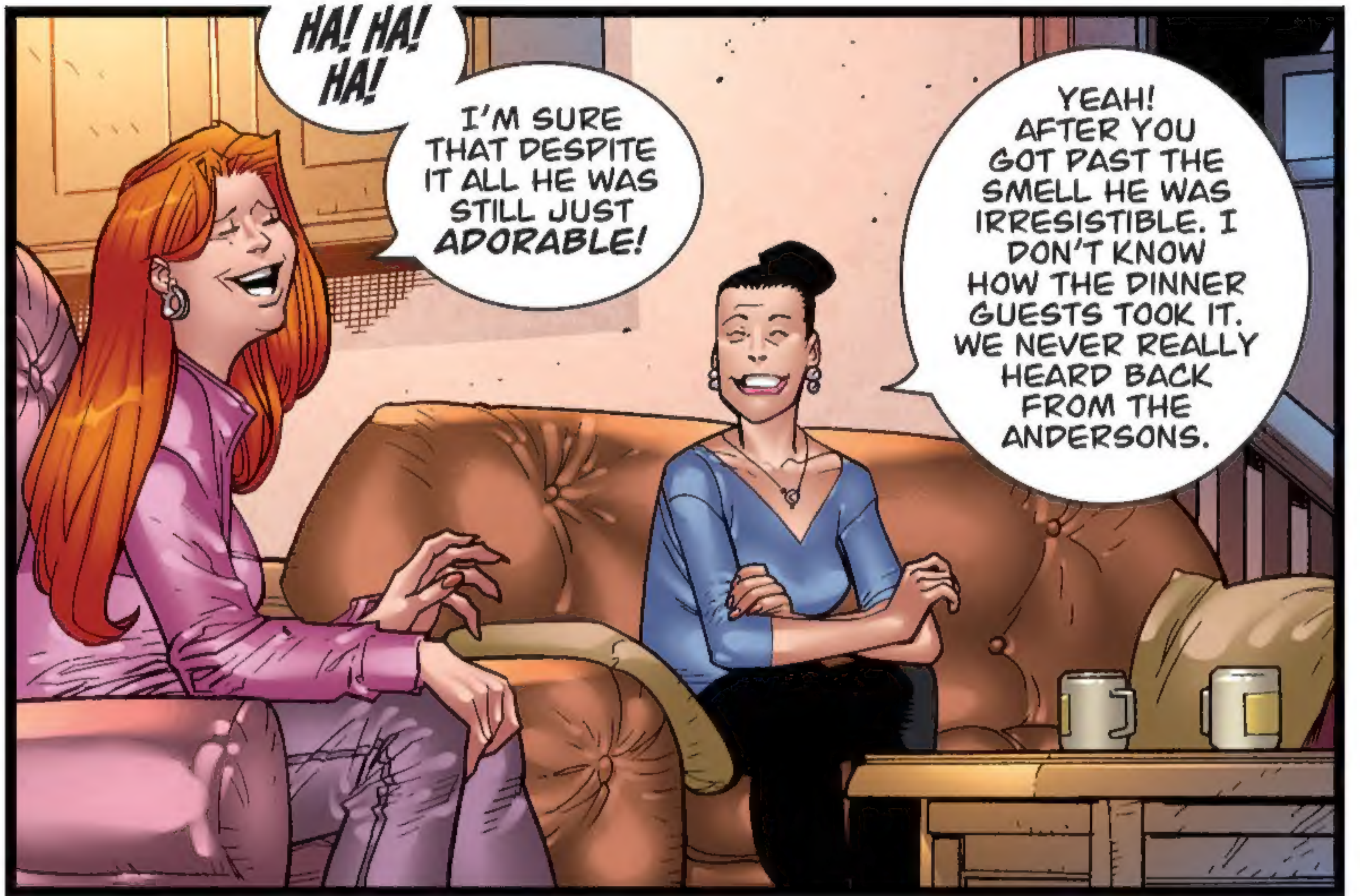
IS THAT THE--?

YEAH, IT'S THE "YOU NEED TO GO FIGHT SOMEONE" HOTLINE.

DUTY CALLS.



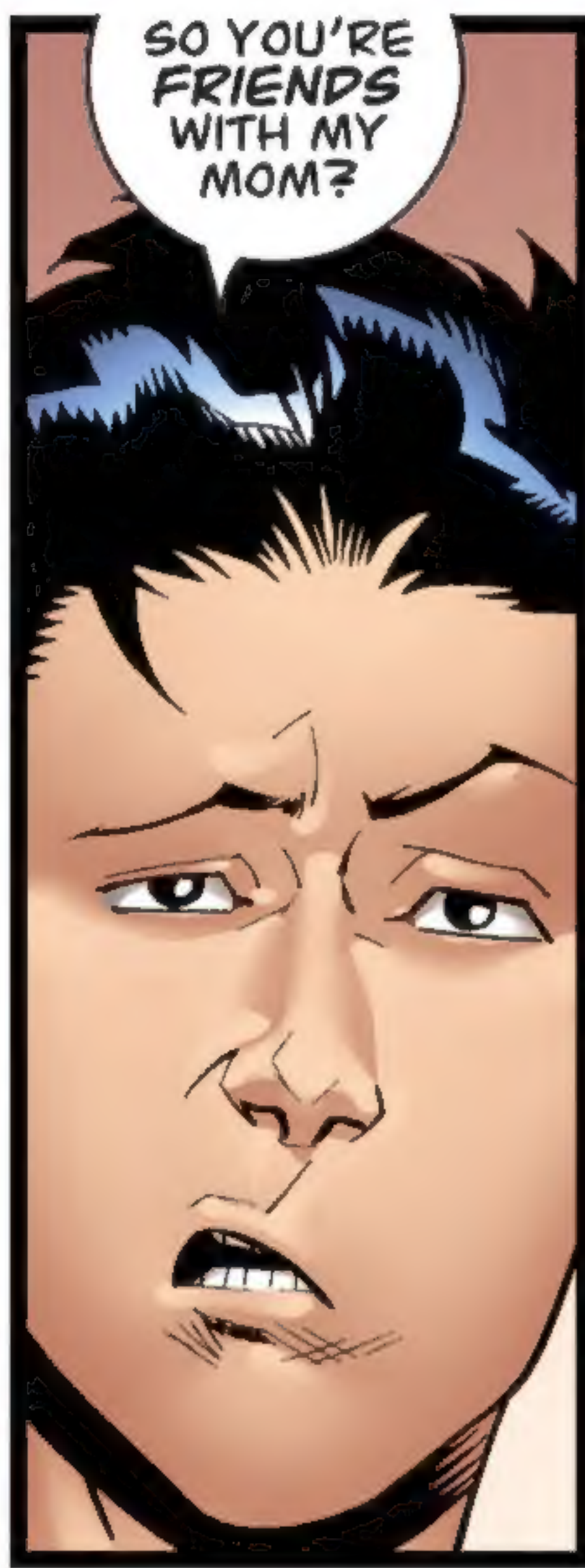




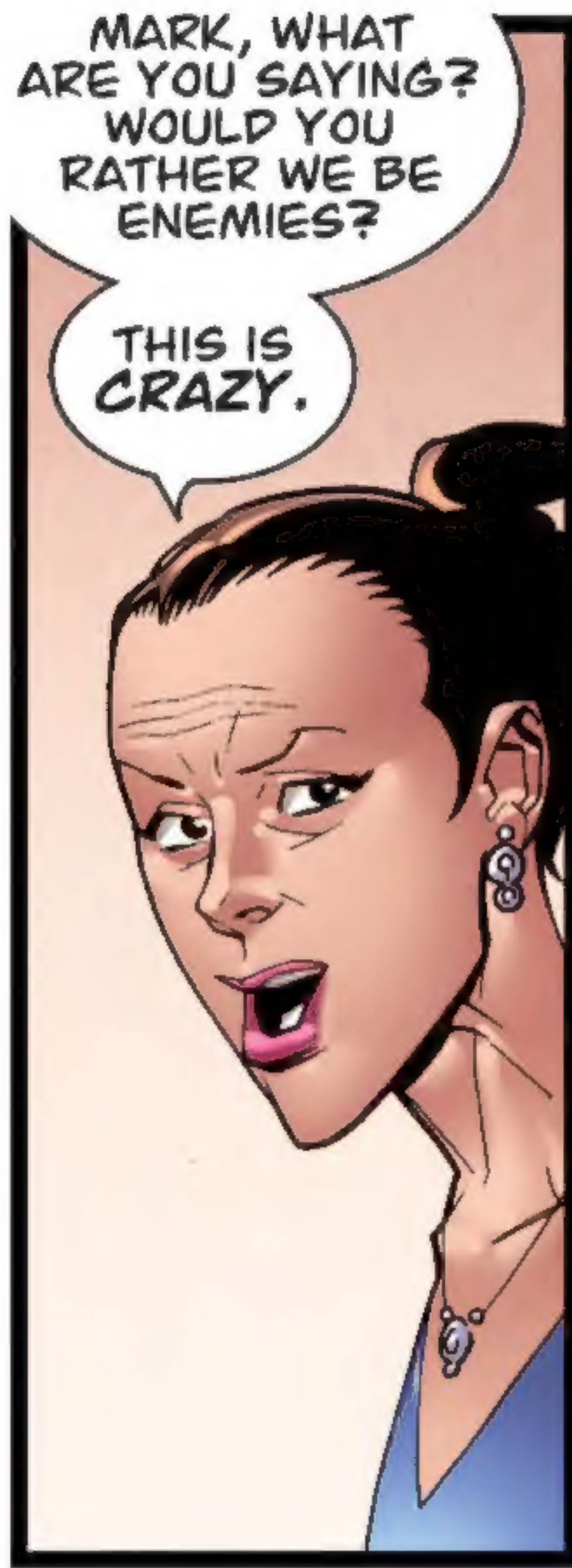


I KNEW YOU WERE TAKING CARE OF THAT BANK THING TONIGHT AND I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PLANS SO I POPPED OVER TO SEE YOUR MOM.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

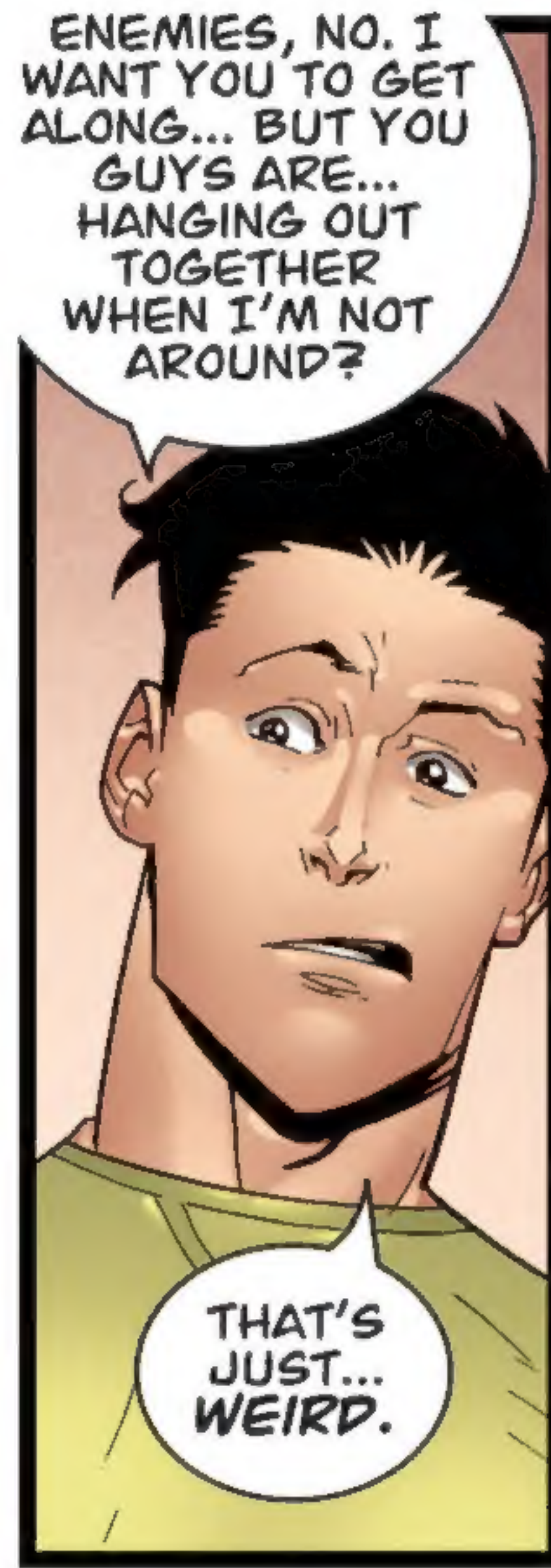


SO YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH MY MOM?



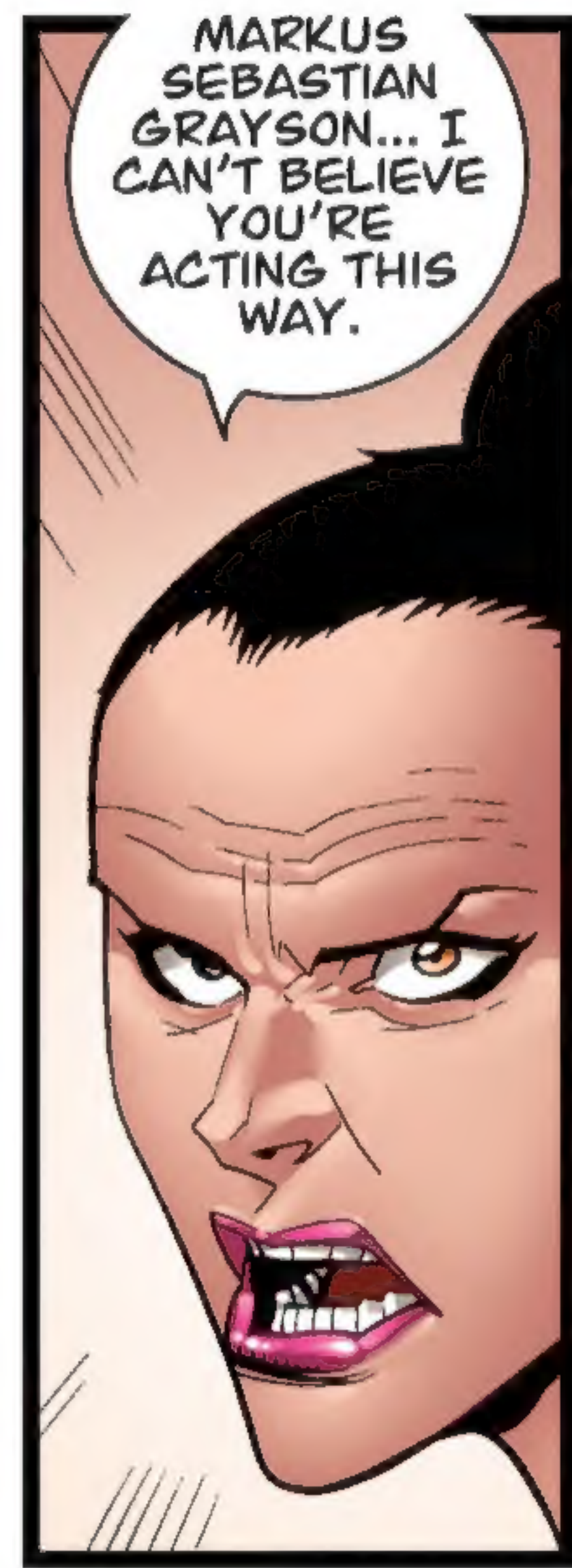
MARK, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WOULD YOU RATHER WE BE ENEMIES?

THIS IS CRAZY.



ENEMIES, NO. I WANT YOU TO GET ALONG... BUT YOU GUYS ARE... HANGING OUT TOGETHER WHEN I'M NOT AROUND?

THAT'S JUST... WEIRD.



MARKUS SEBASTIAN GRAYSON... I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ACTING THIS WAY.



WE... SPENT A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER, BONDED WHEN YOU WERE GONE.

I REALLY DON'T SEE HOW THIS IS A BIG DEAL. I'M FRIENDS WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND.



YOU KNOW, THE TWO OF US DON'T HAVE A LOT OF OTHER FRIENDS... WE'VE REALLY GROWN QUITE CLOSE.



YOU'RE MAKING IT WORSE.



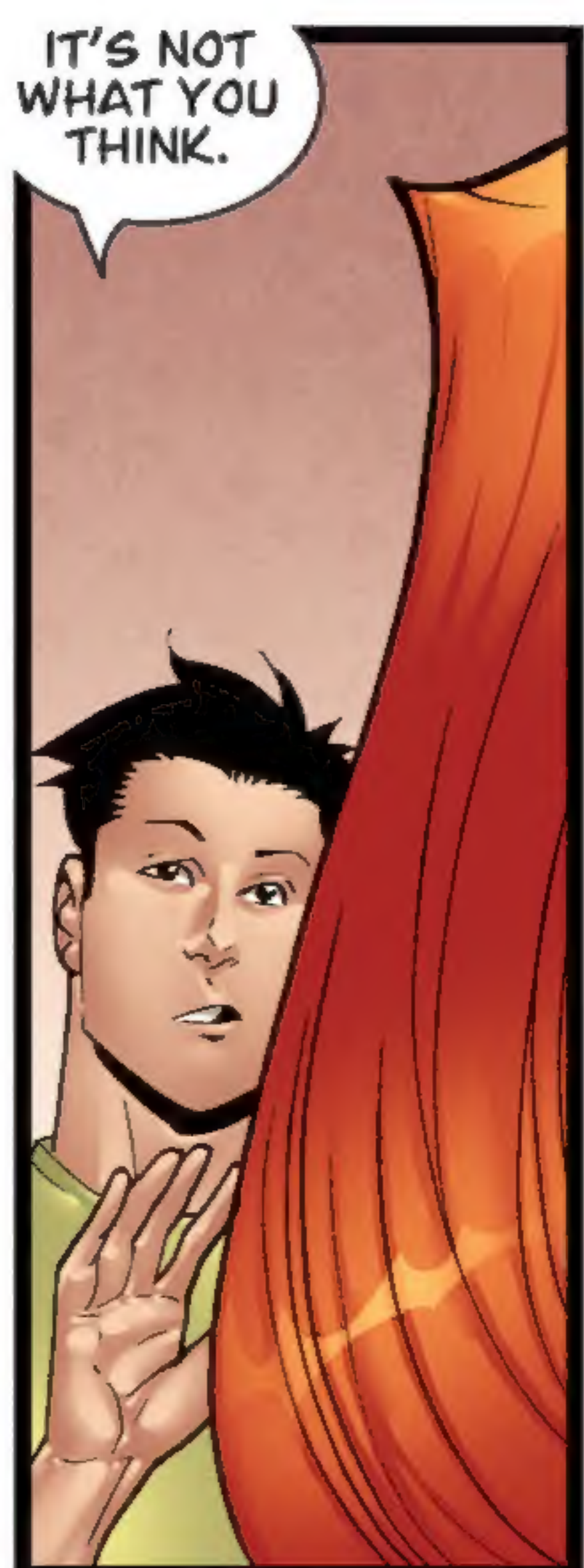
REALLY, MARK. YOU'RE BOTH ADULTS NOW. YOU TURNED TWENTY WHILE YOU WERE AWAY.

YOU REALLY WANT ME SCOLDING YOU WHEN I SEE HER FACE IN YOUR LAP WHEN YOU'RE FORTY?



UH...

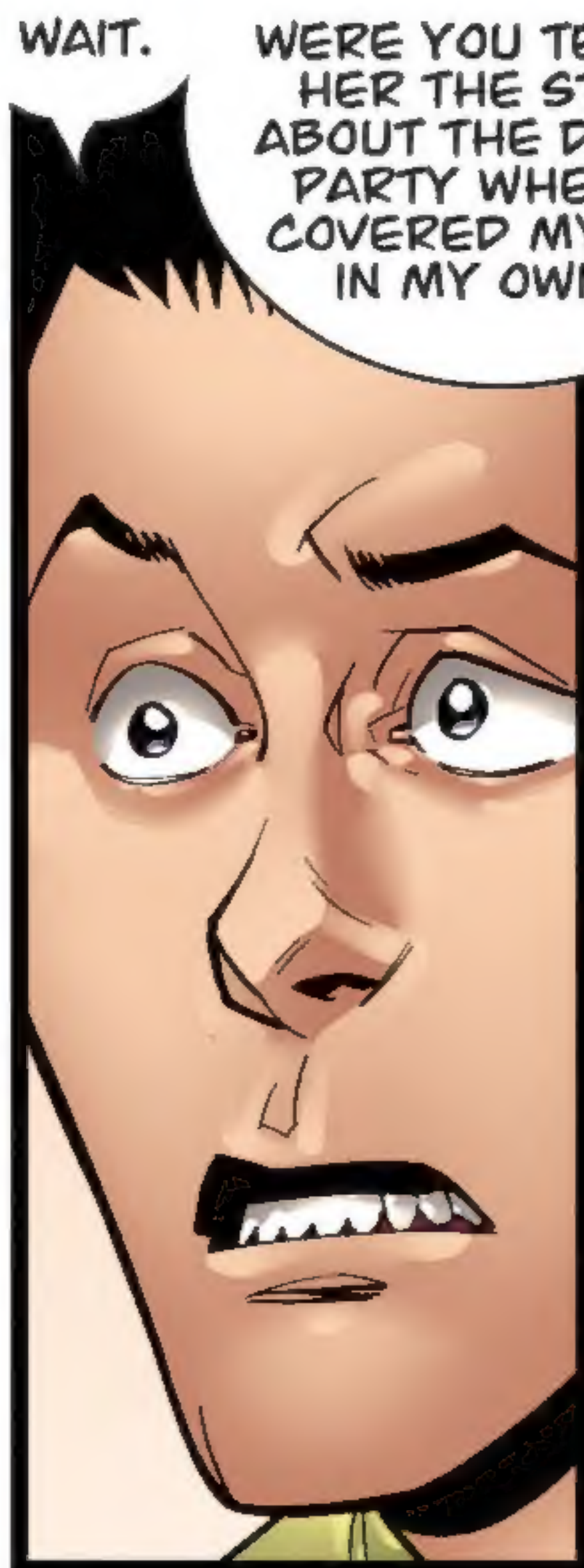
WHEN WAS MY FACE IN HIS LAP?



IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK.

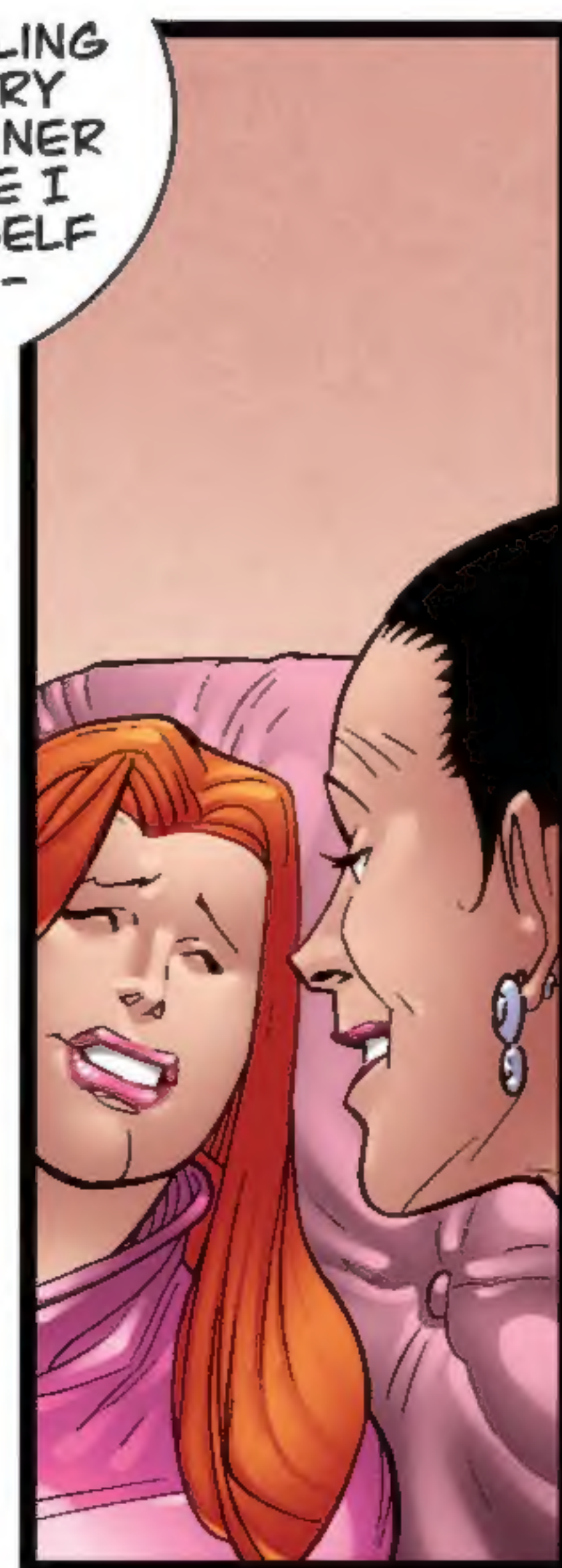


NOW YOU'RE MAKING ME UNCOMFORTABLE.



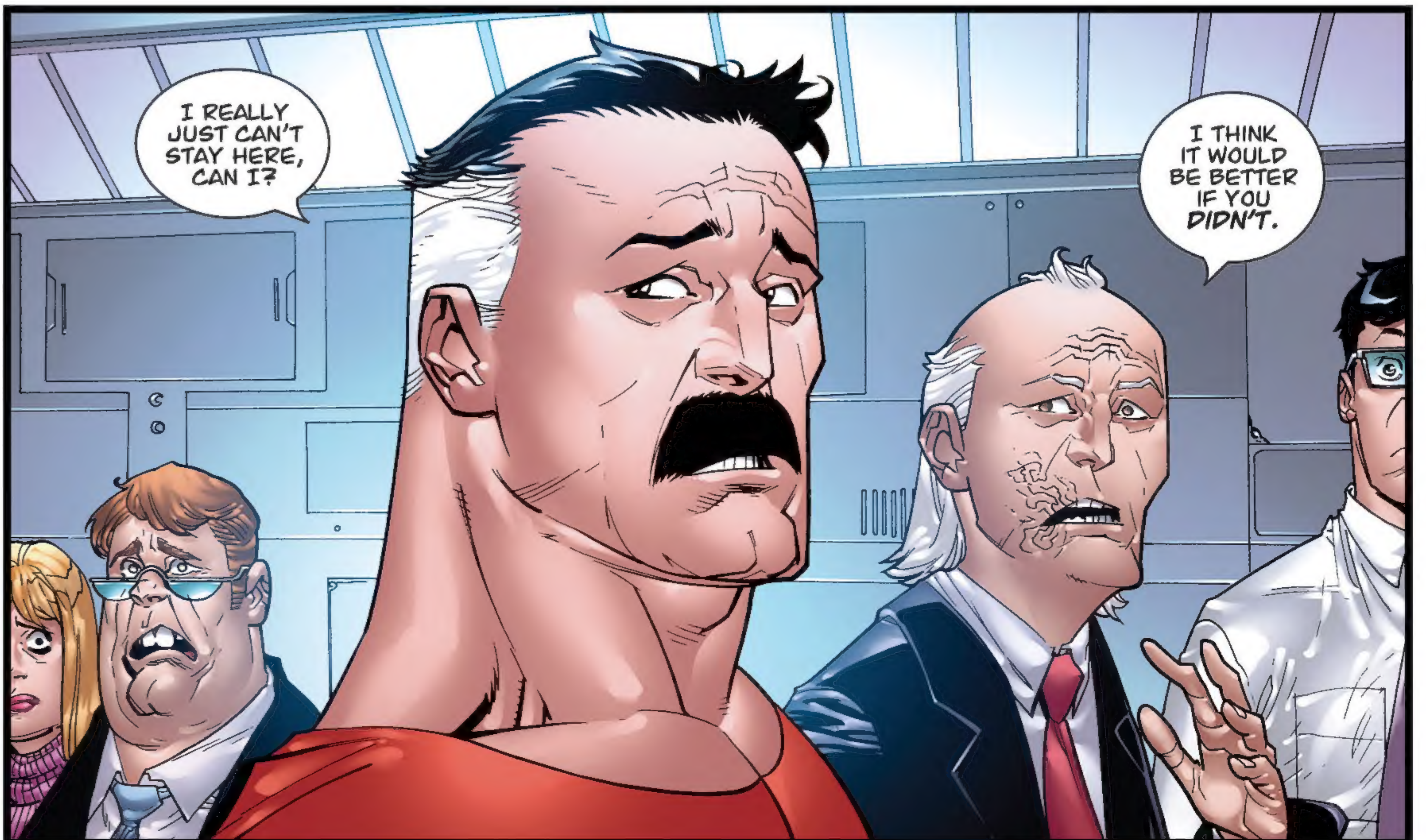
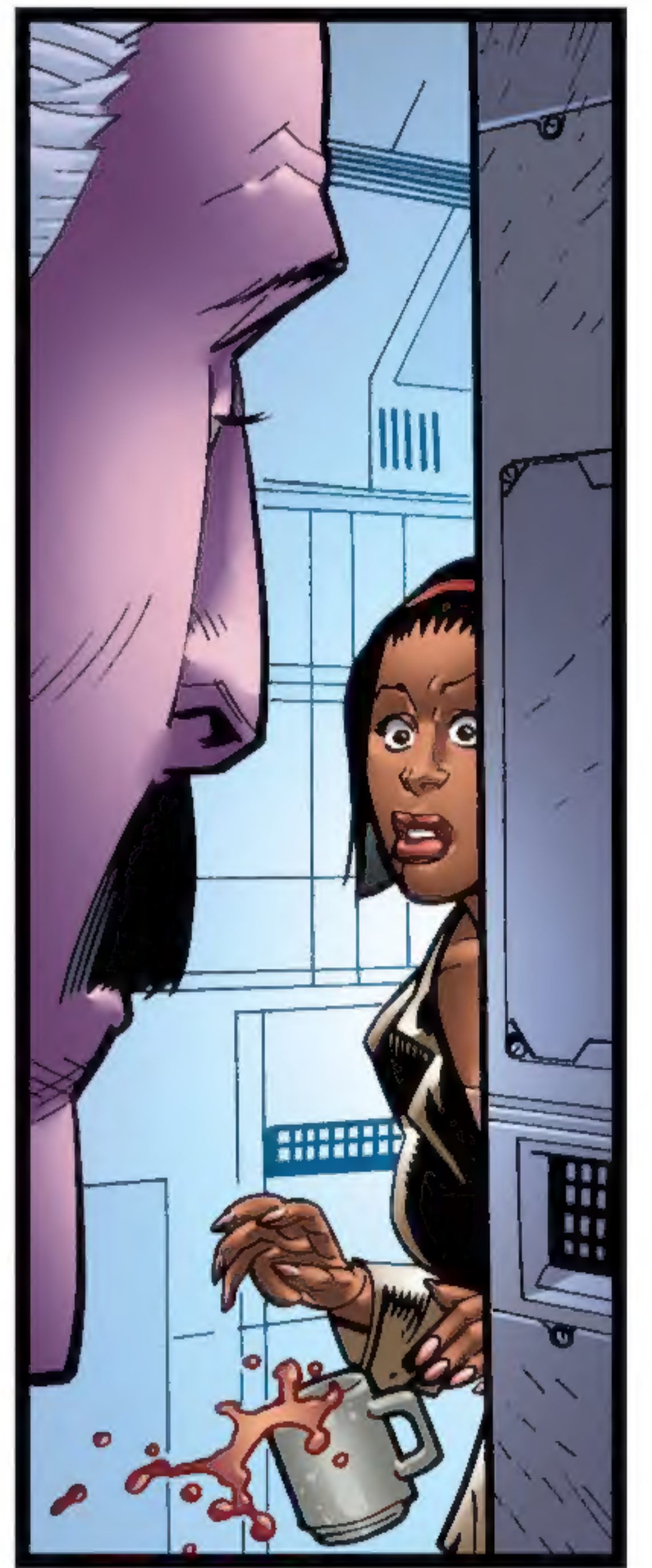
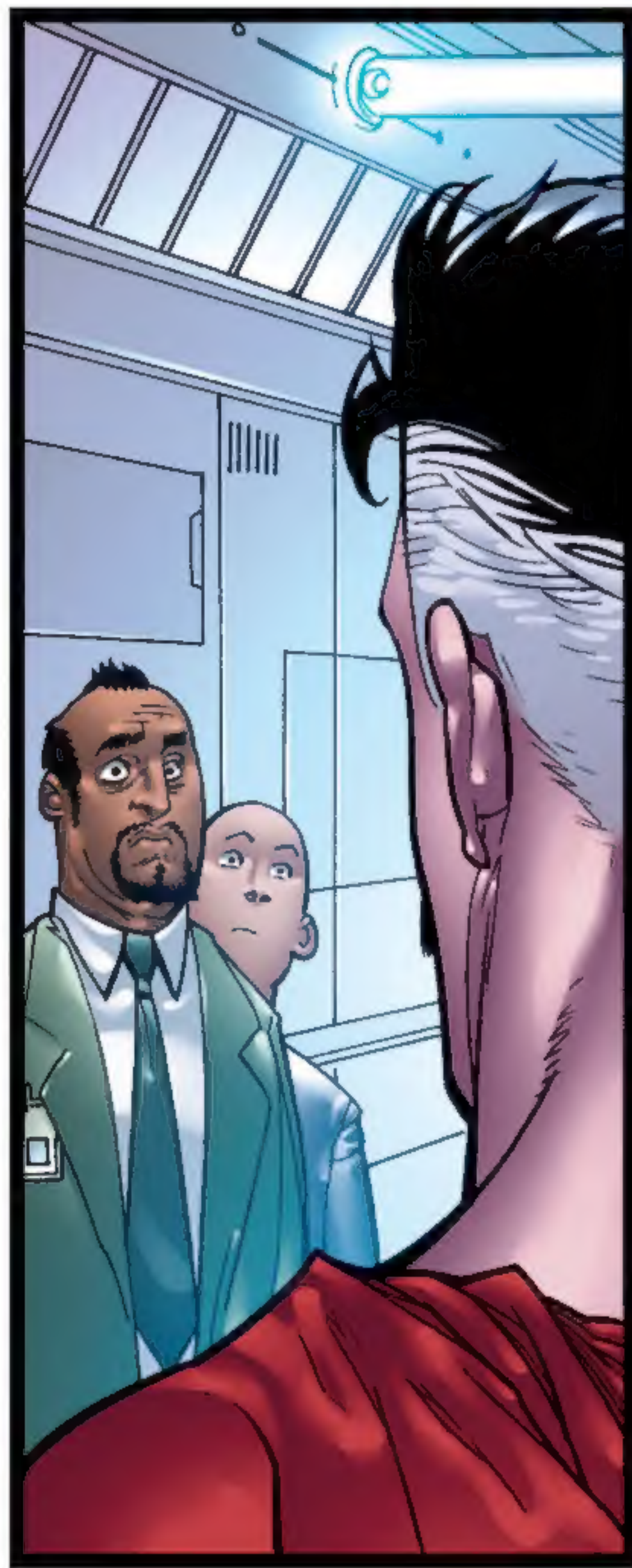
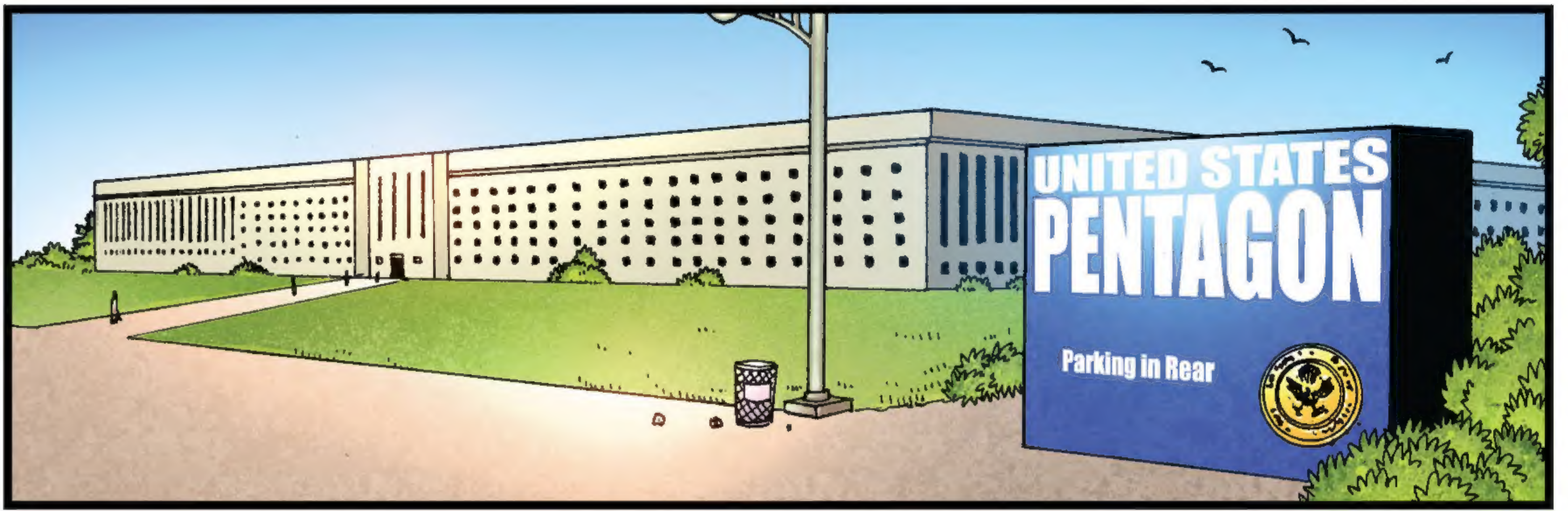
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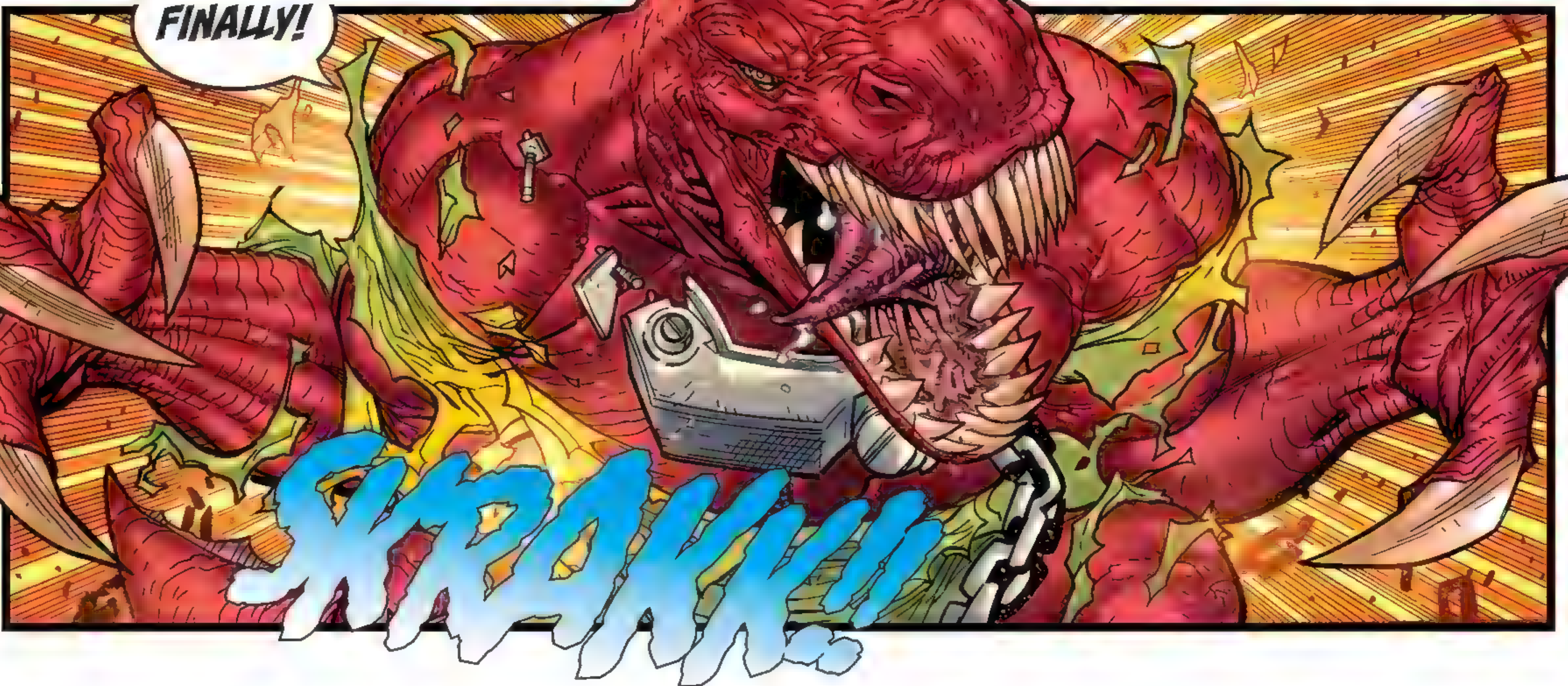
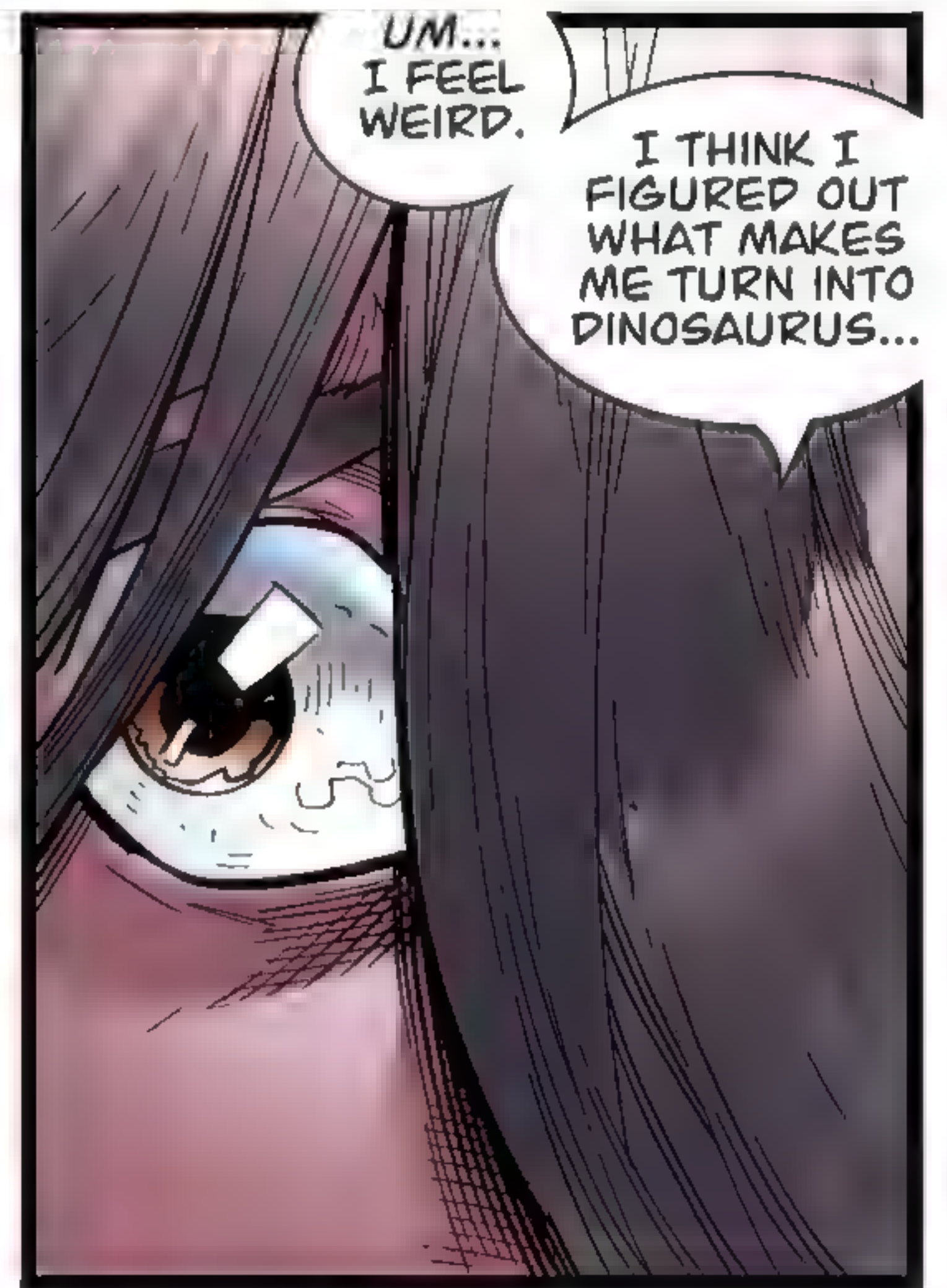
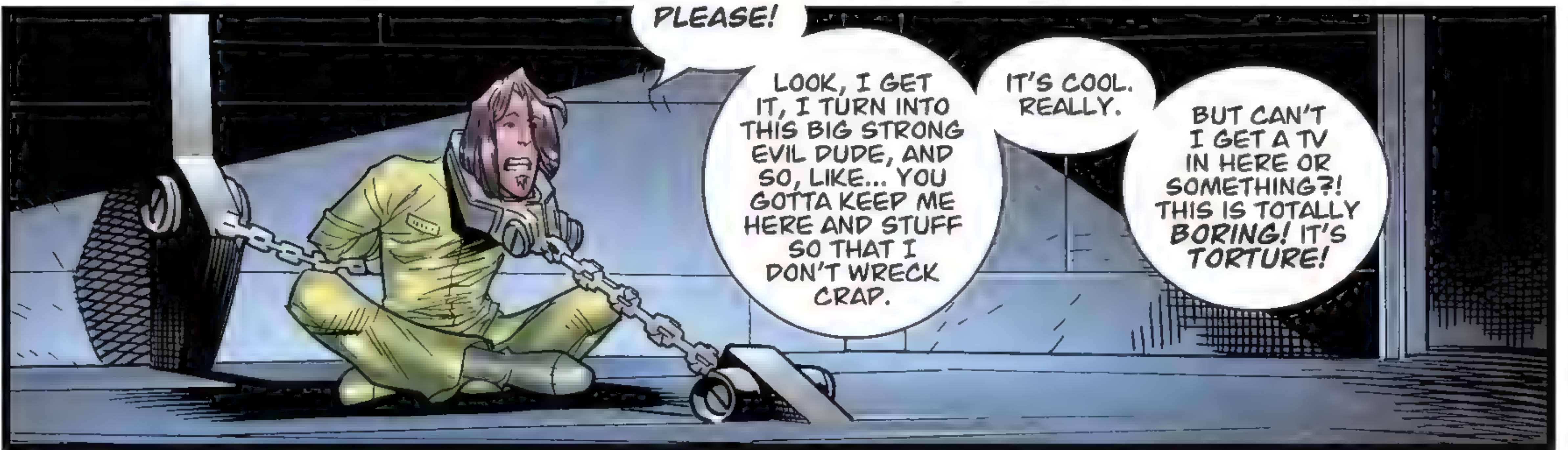
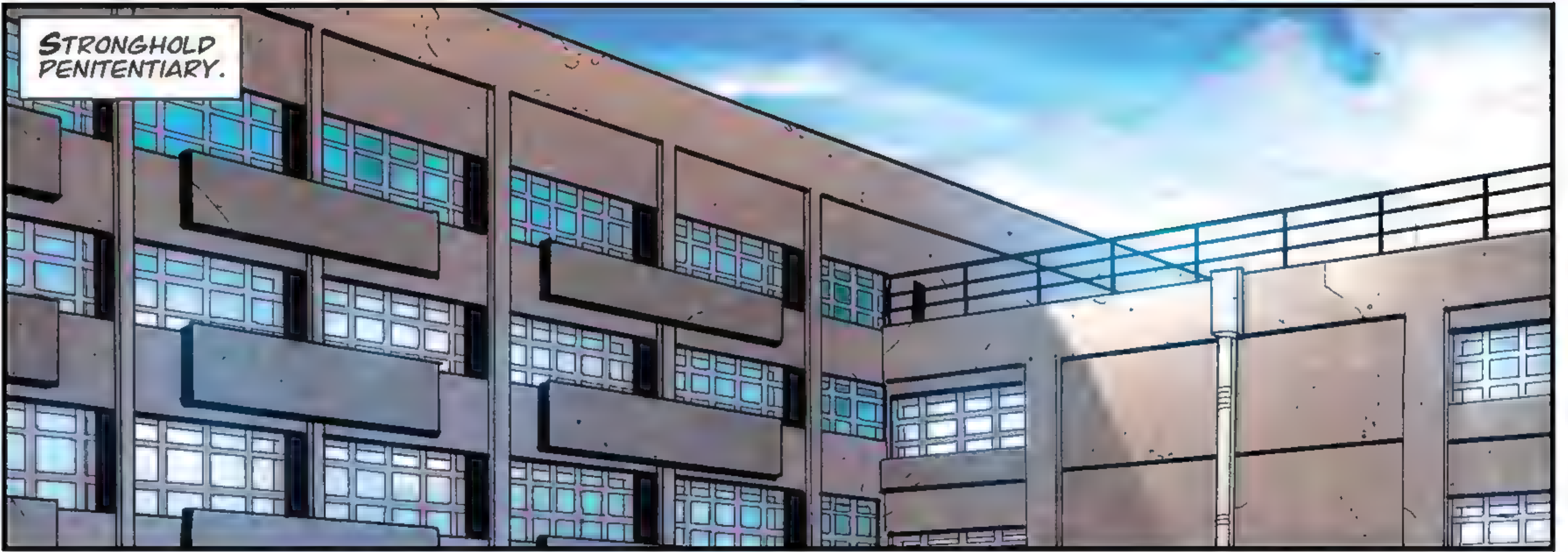
WERE YOU TELLING HER THE STORY ABOUT THE DINNER PARTY WHERE I COVERED MYSELF IN MY OWN--

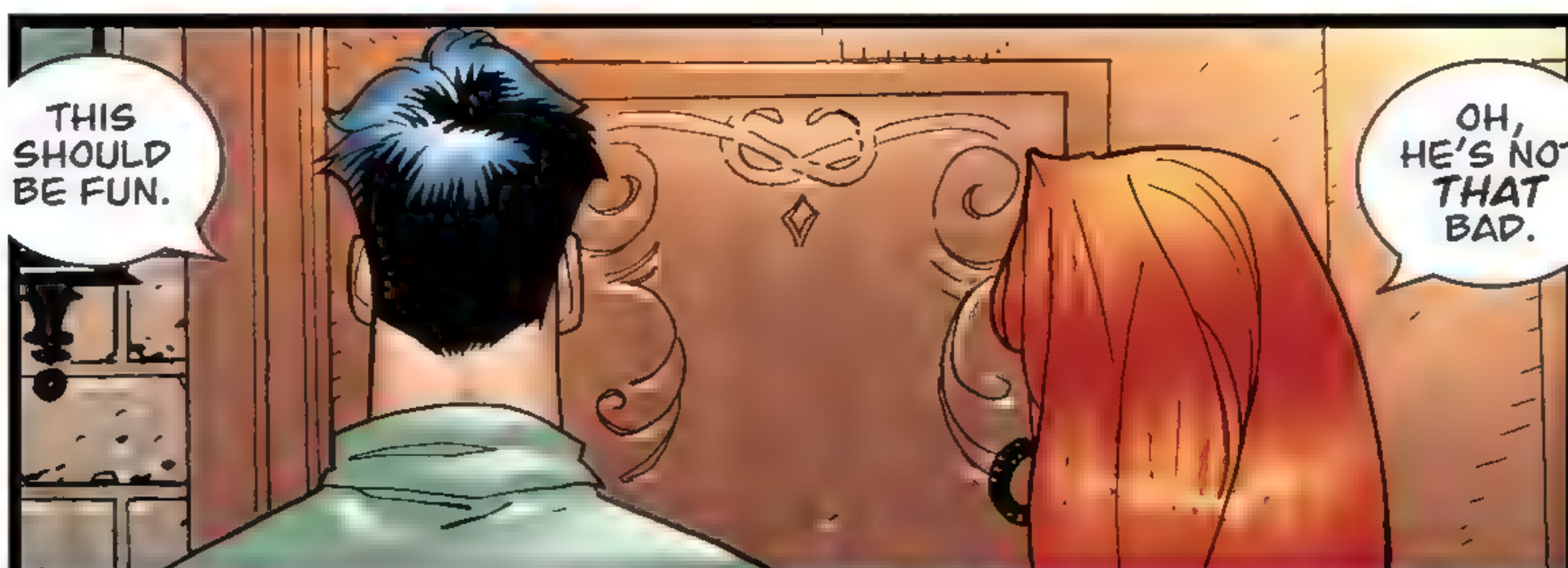
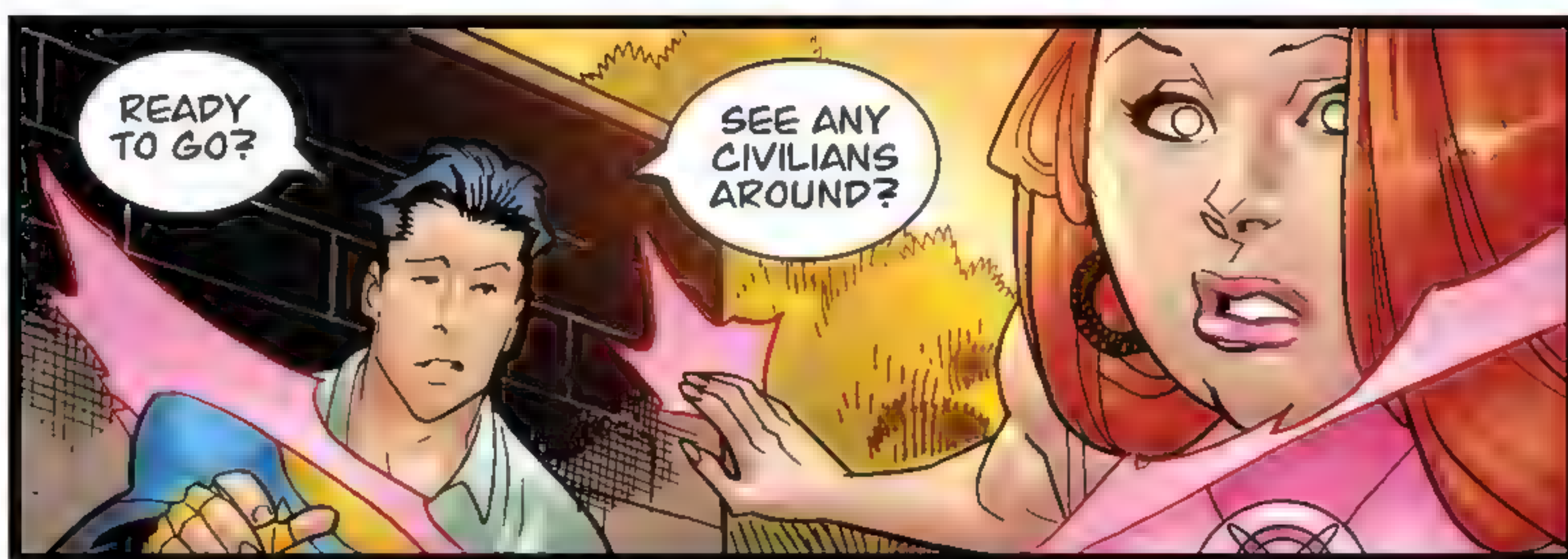
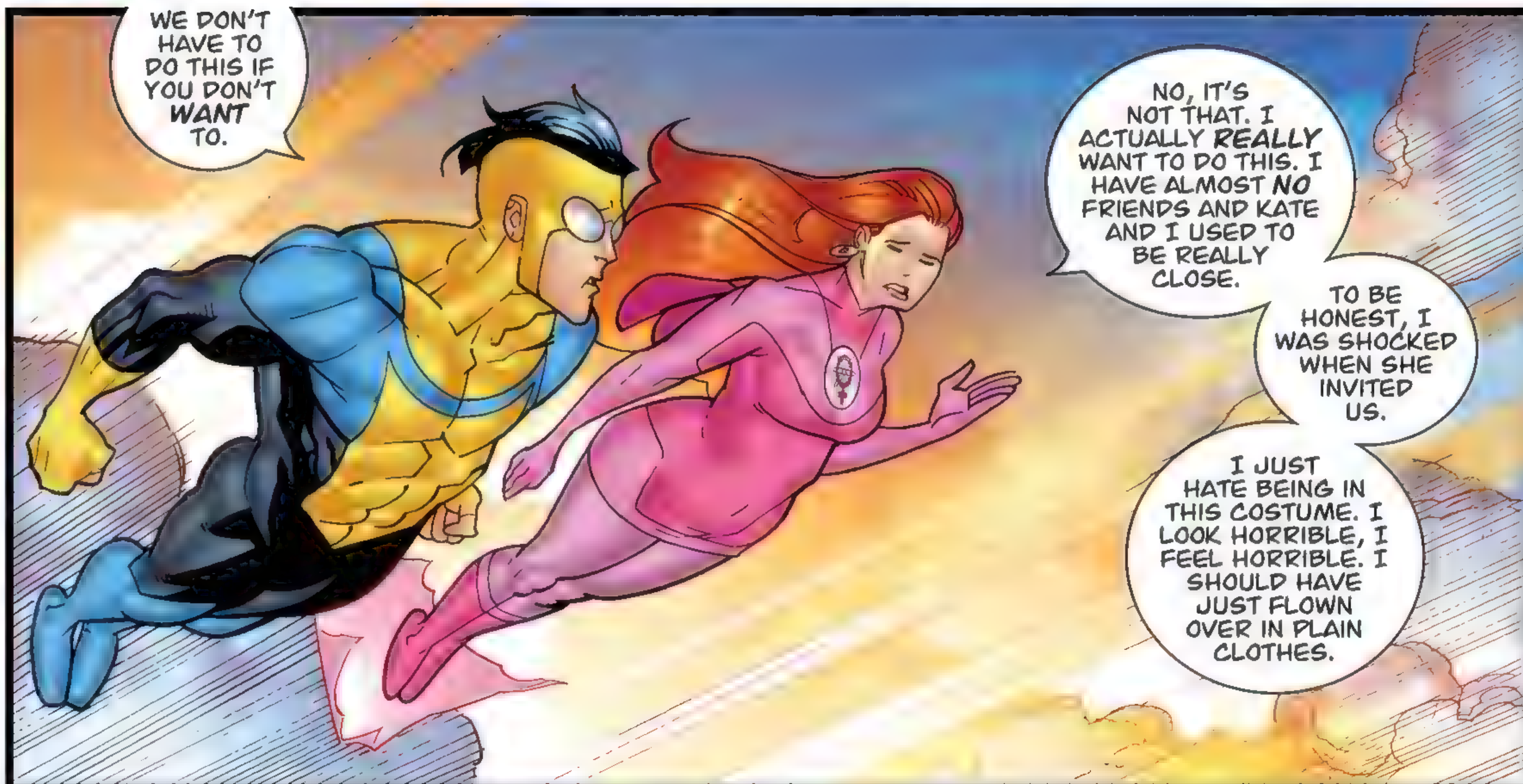


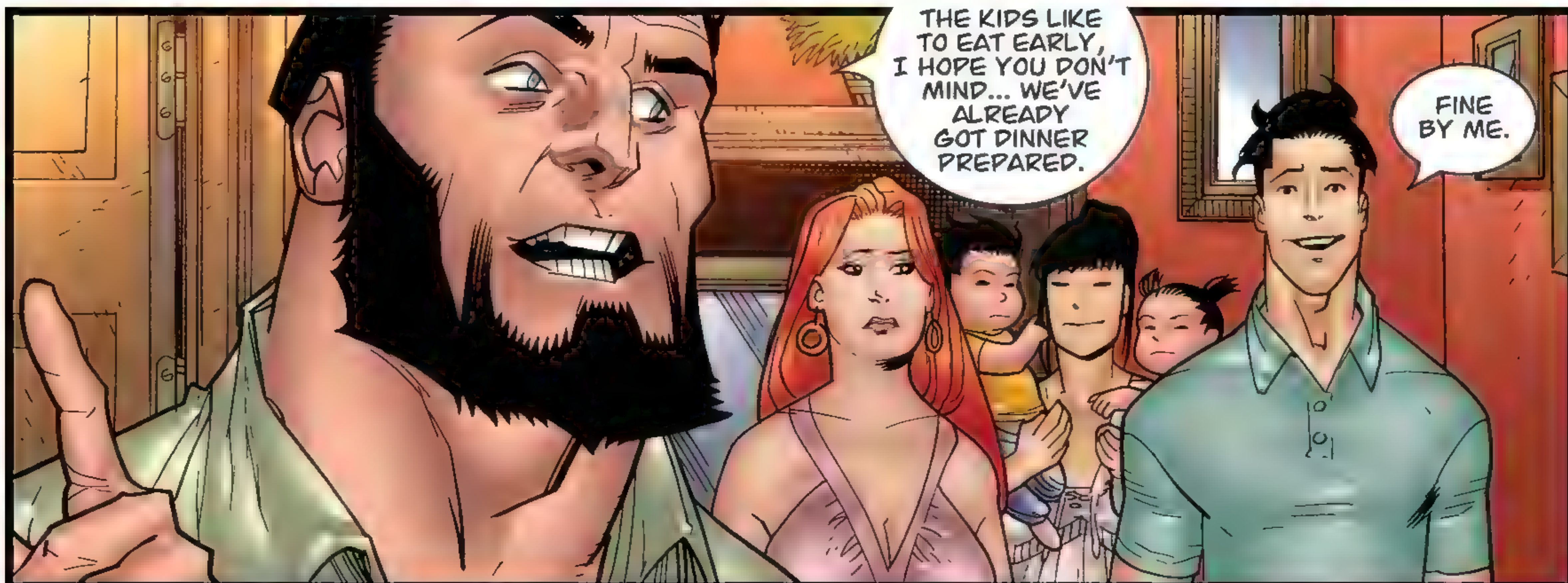
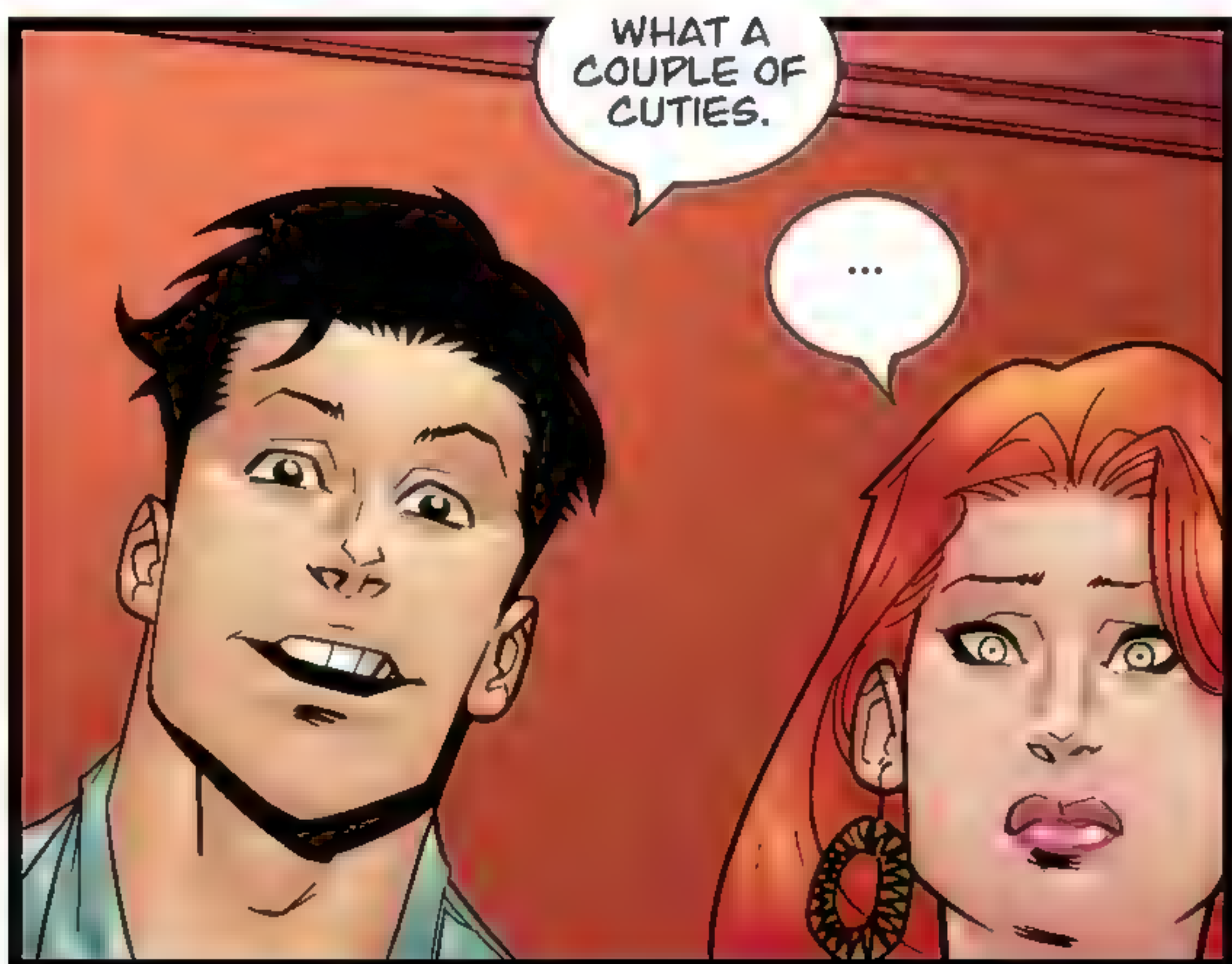
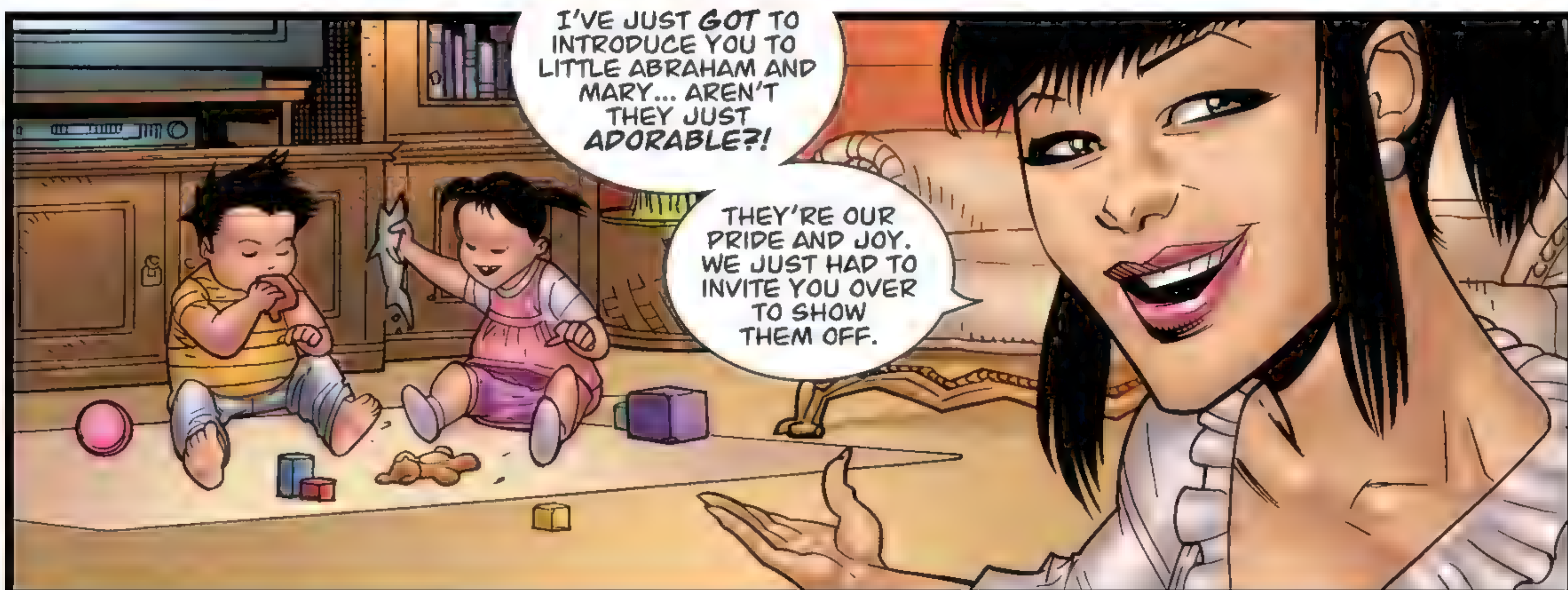
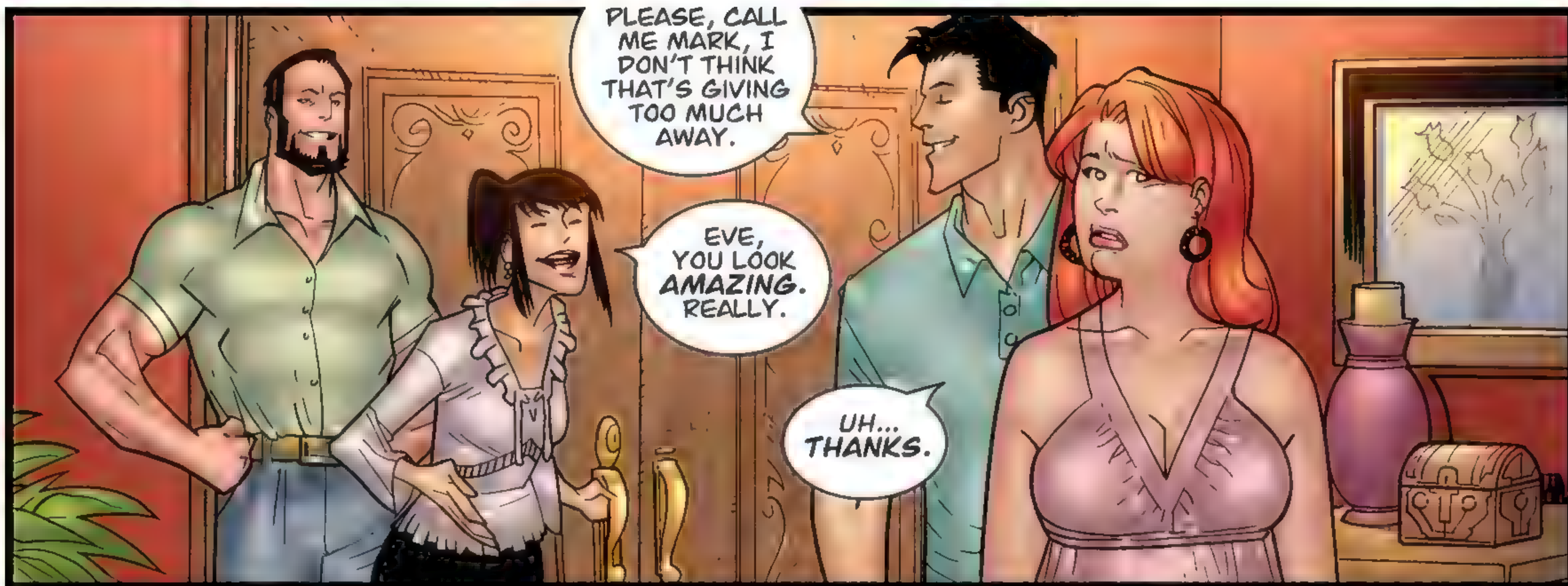
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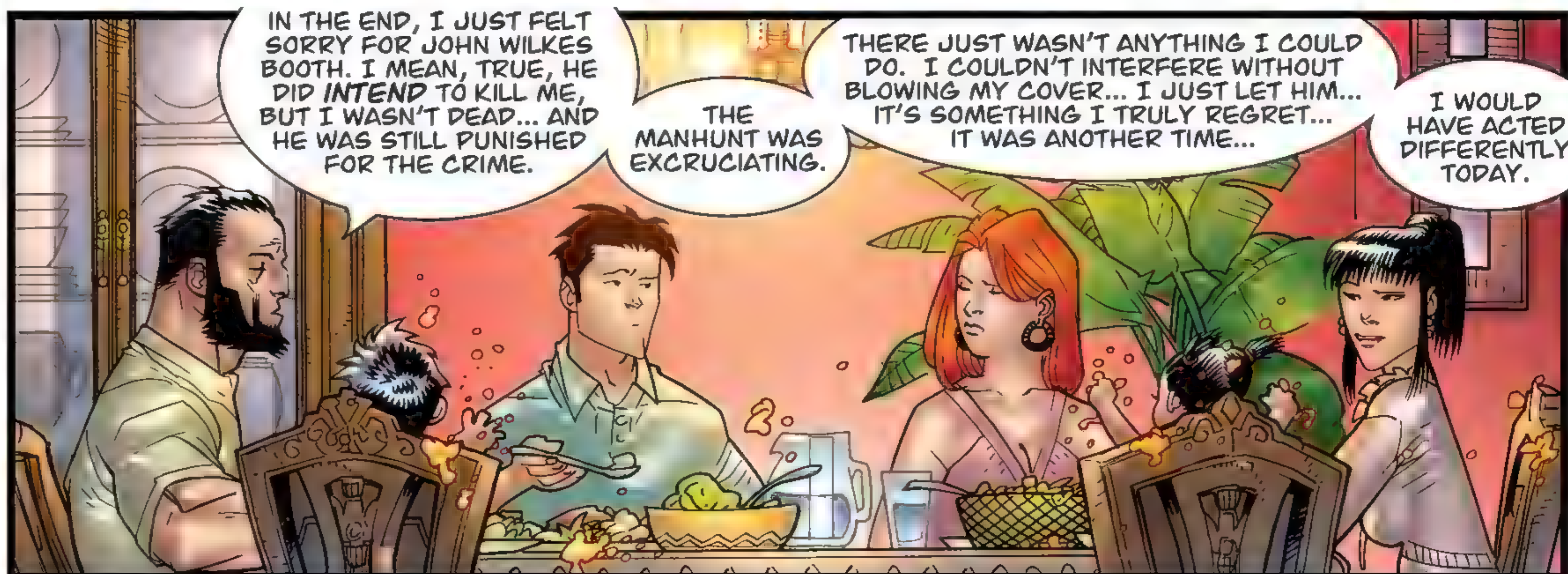
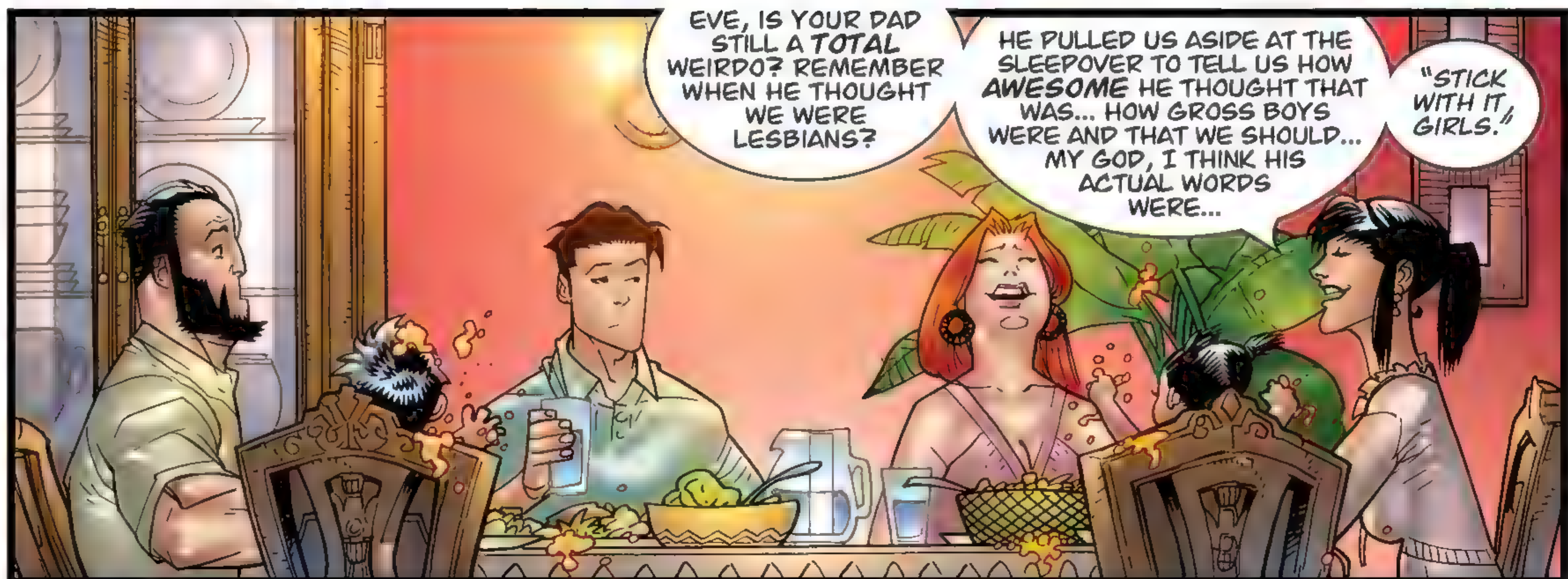
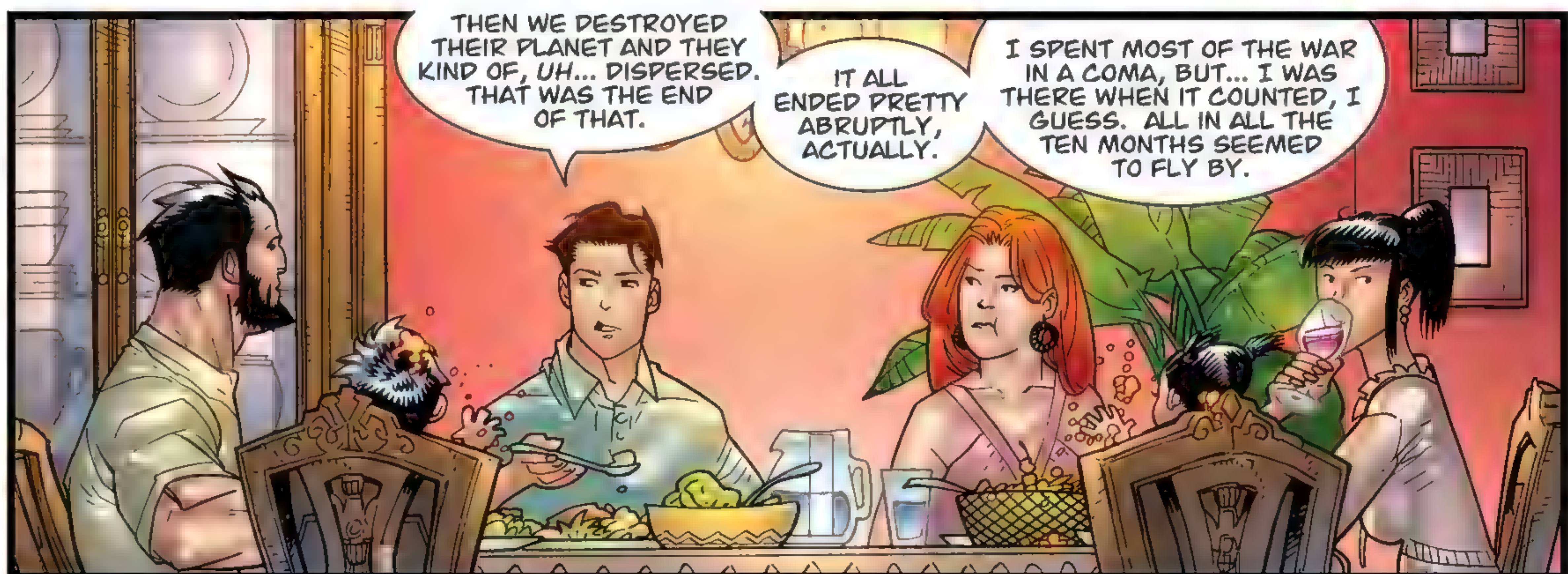
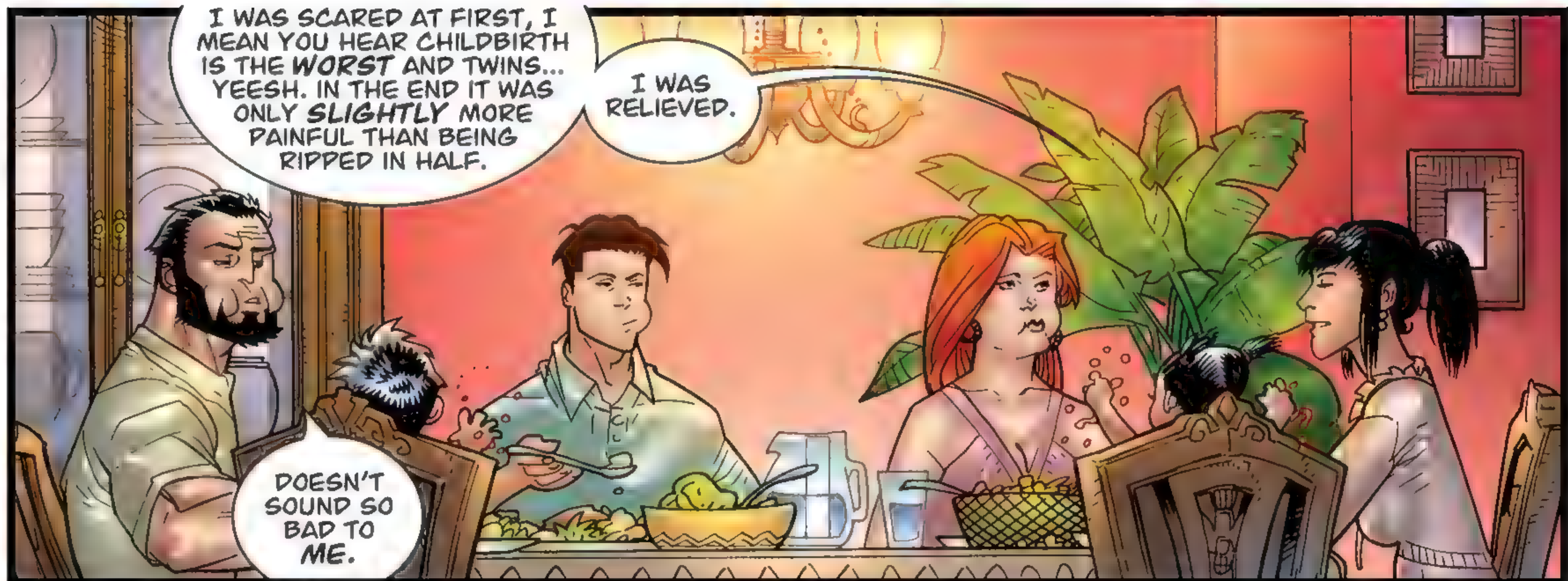
WHERE'S DAD?

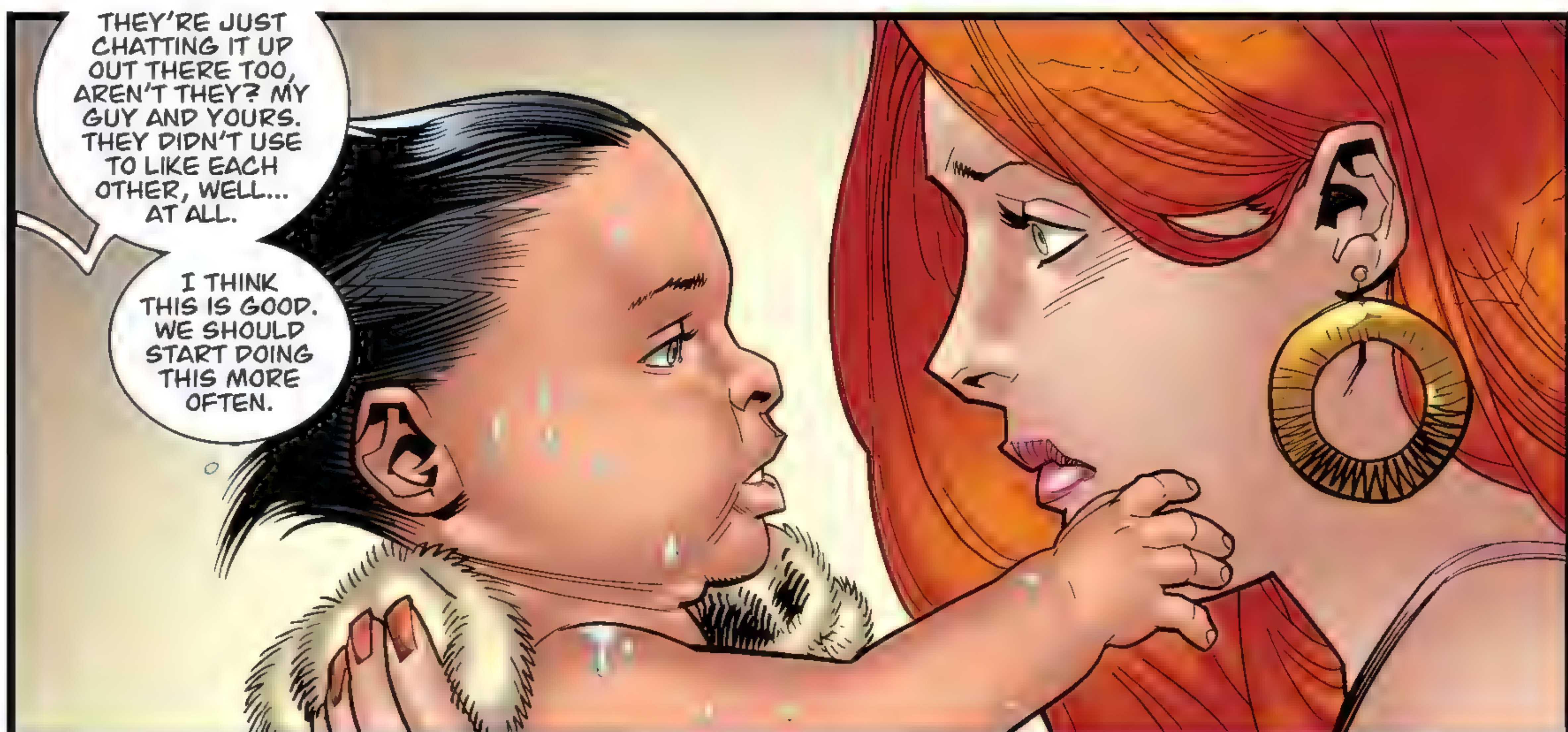
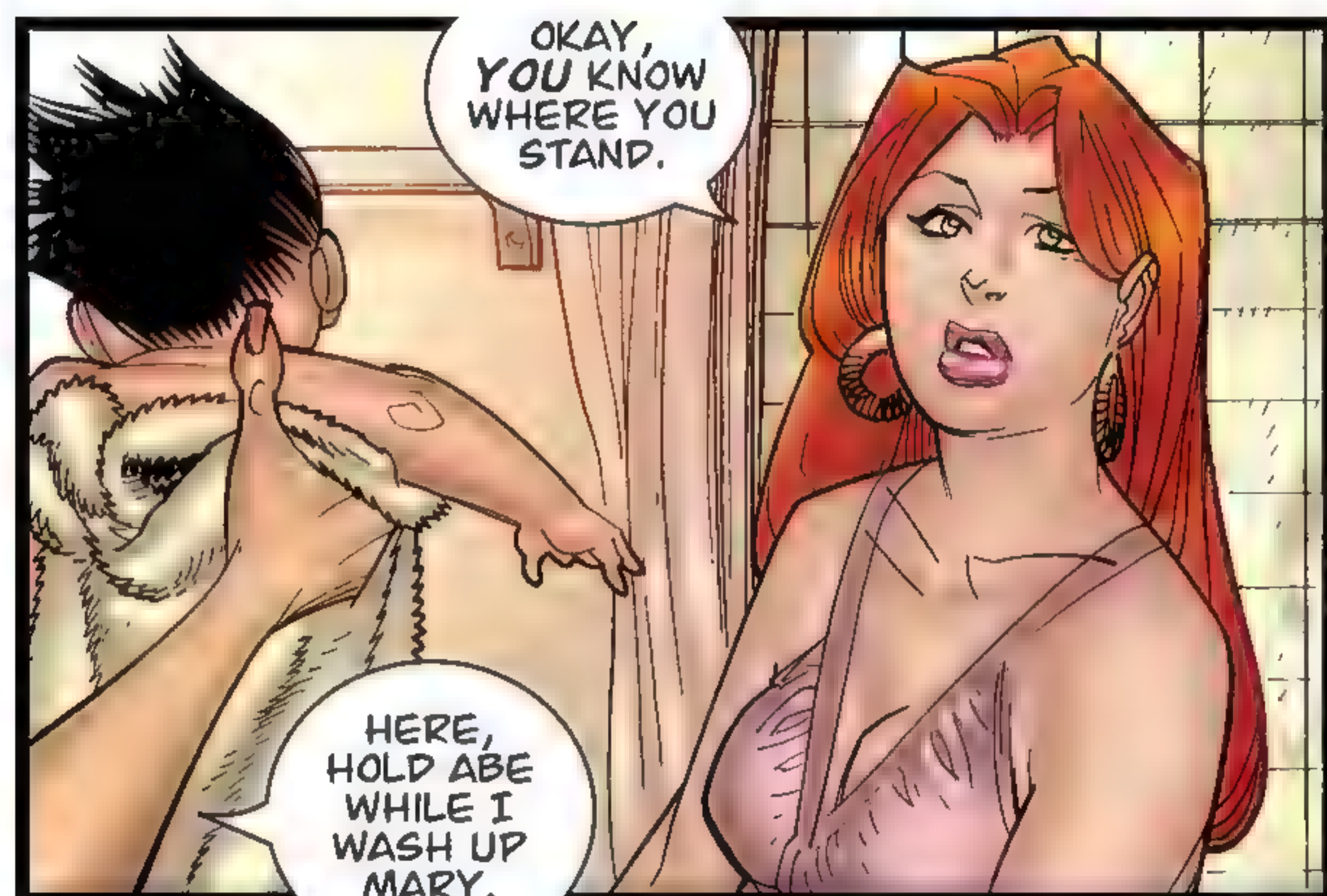
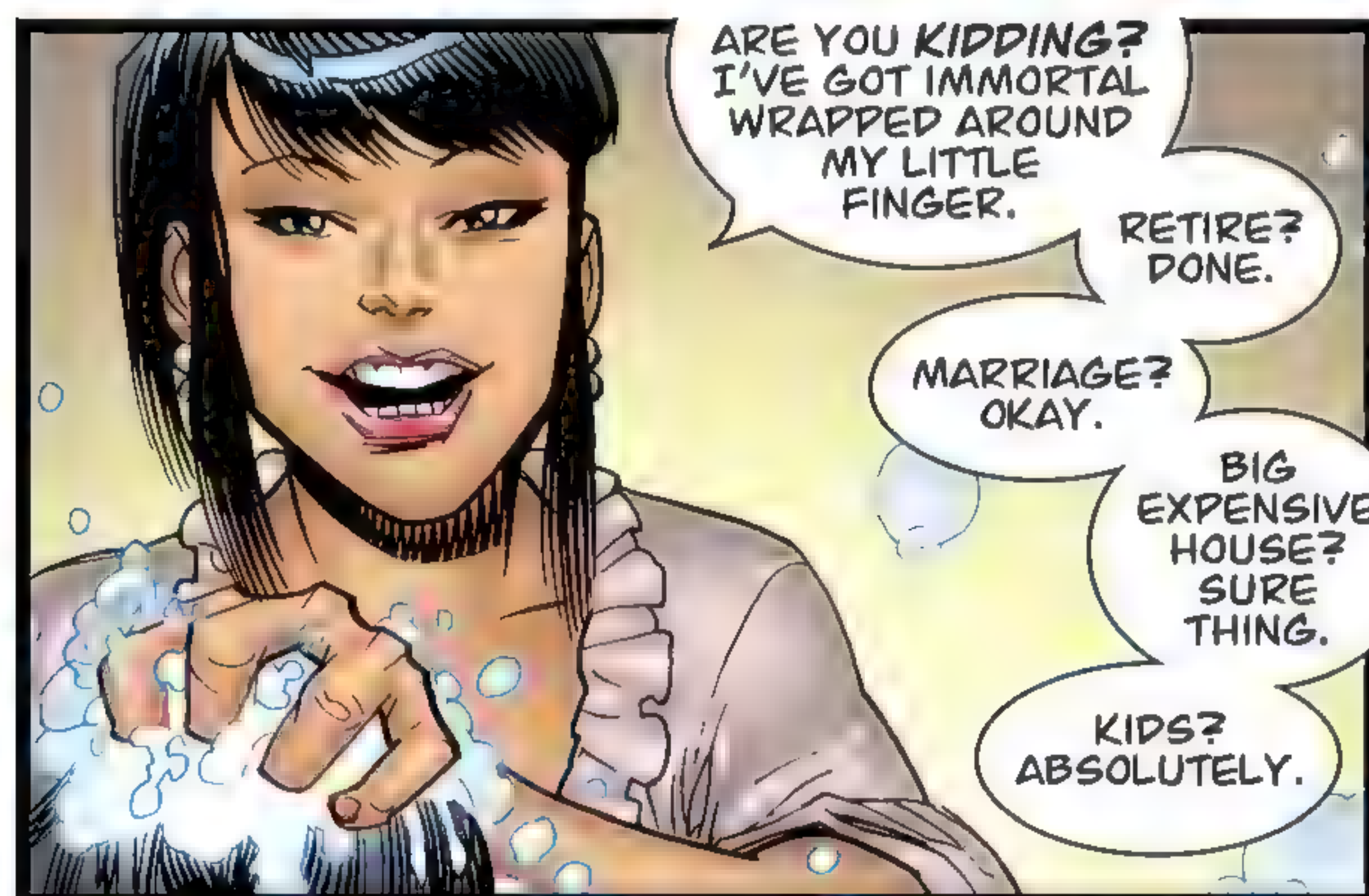
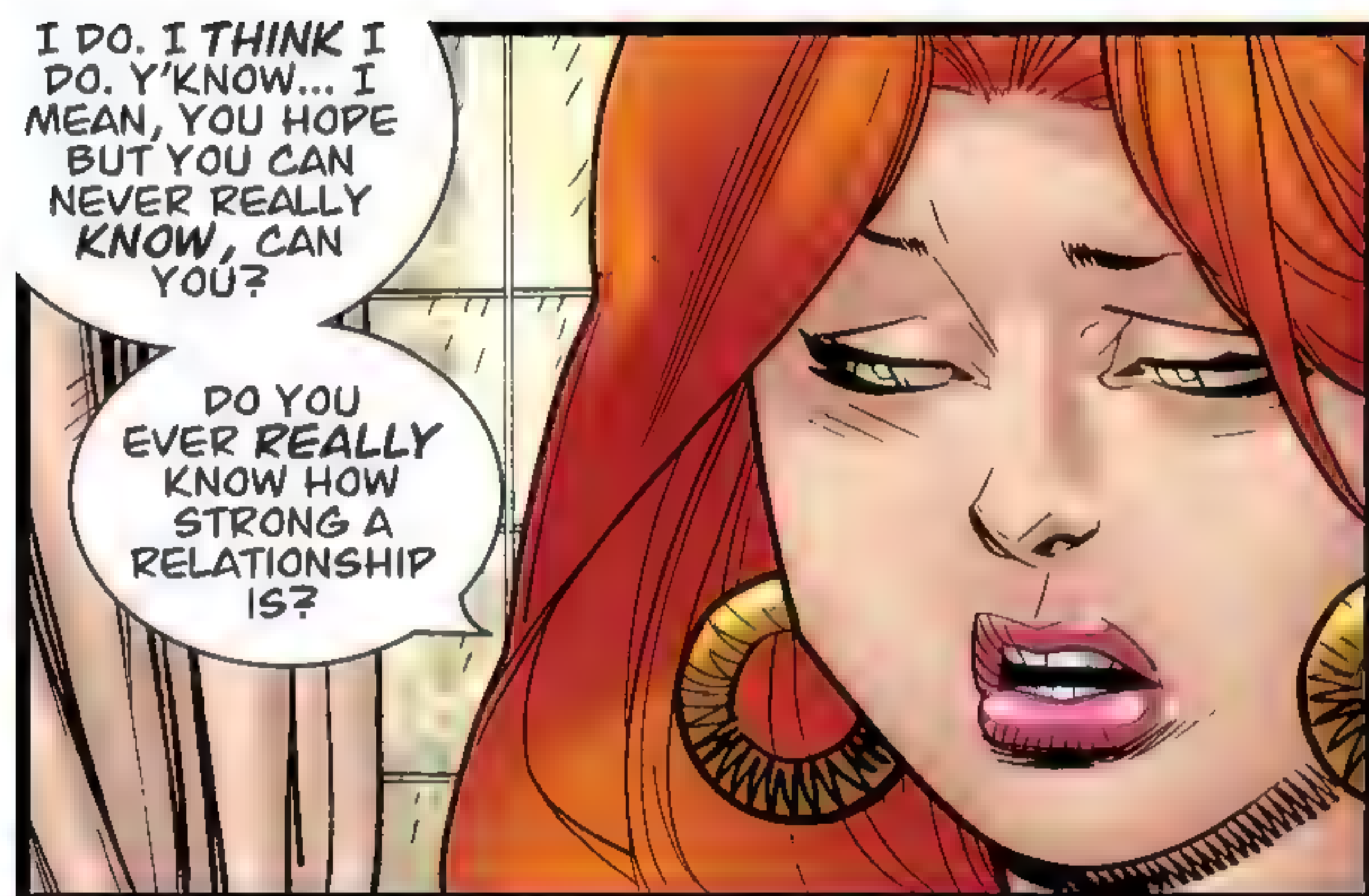


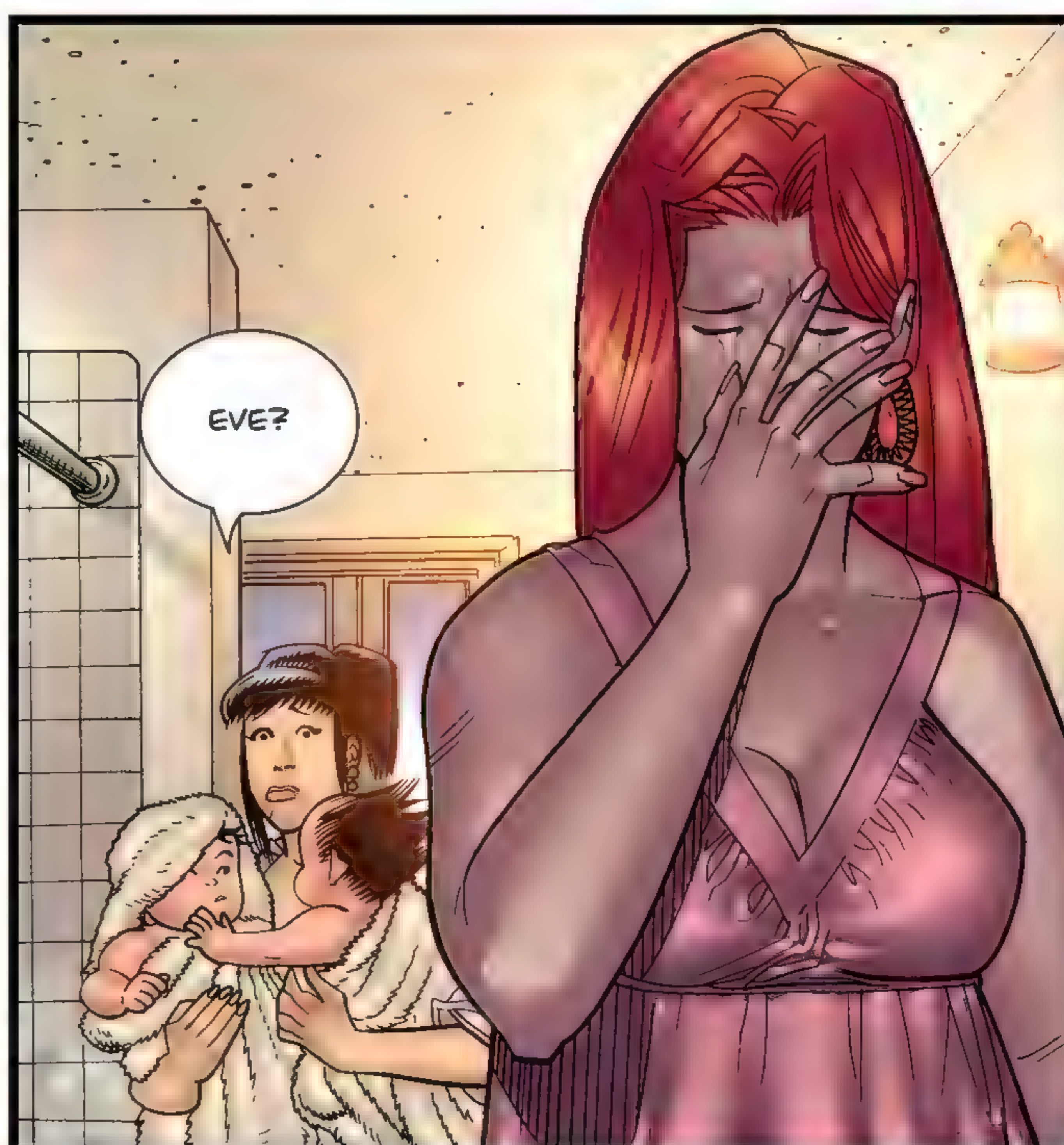
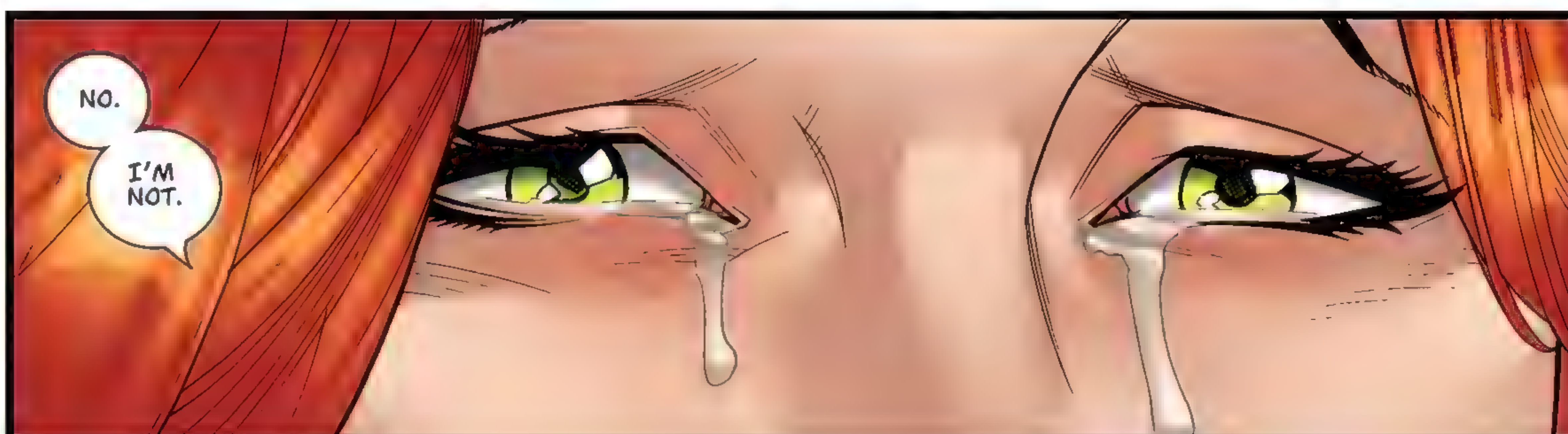


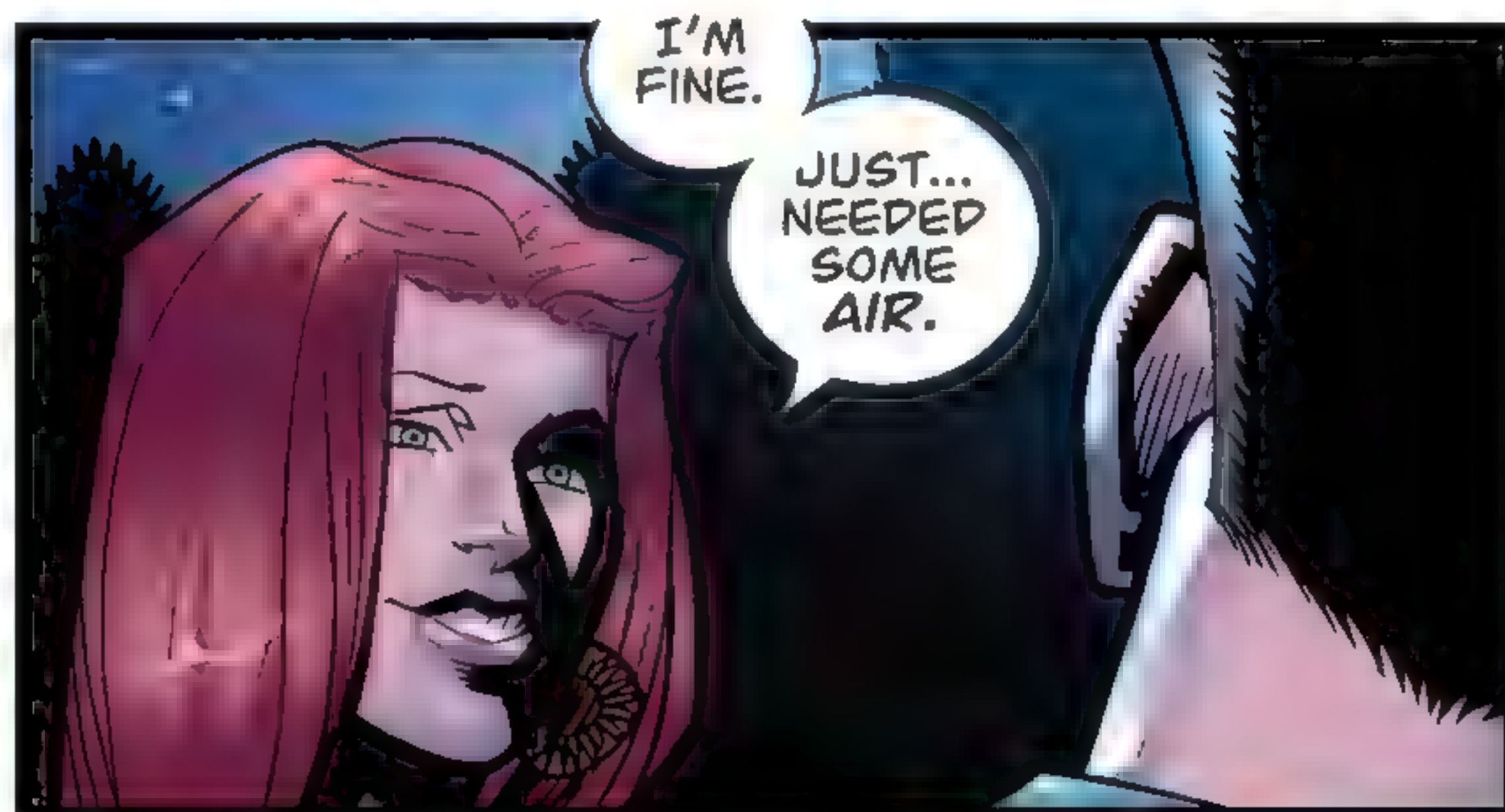
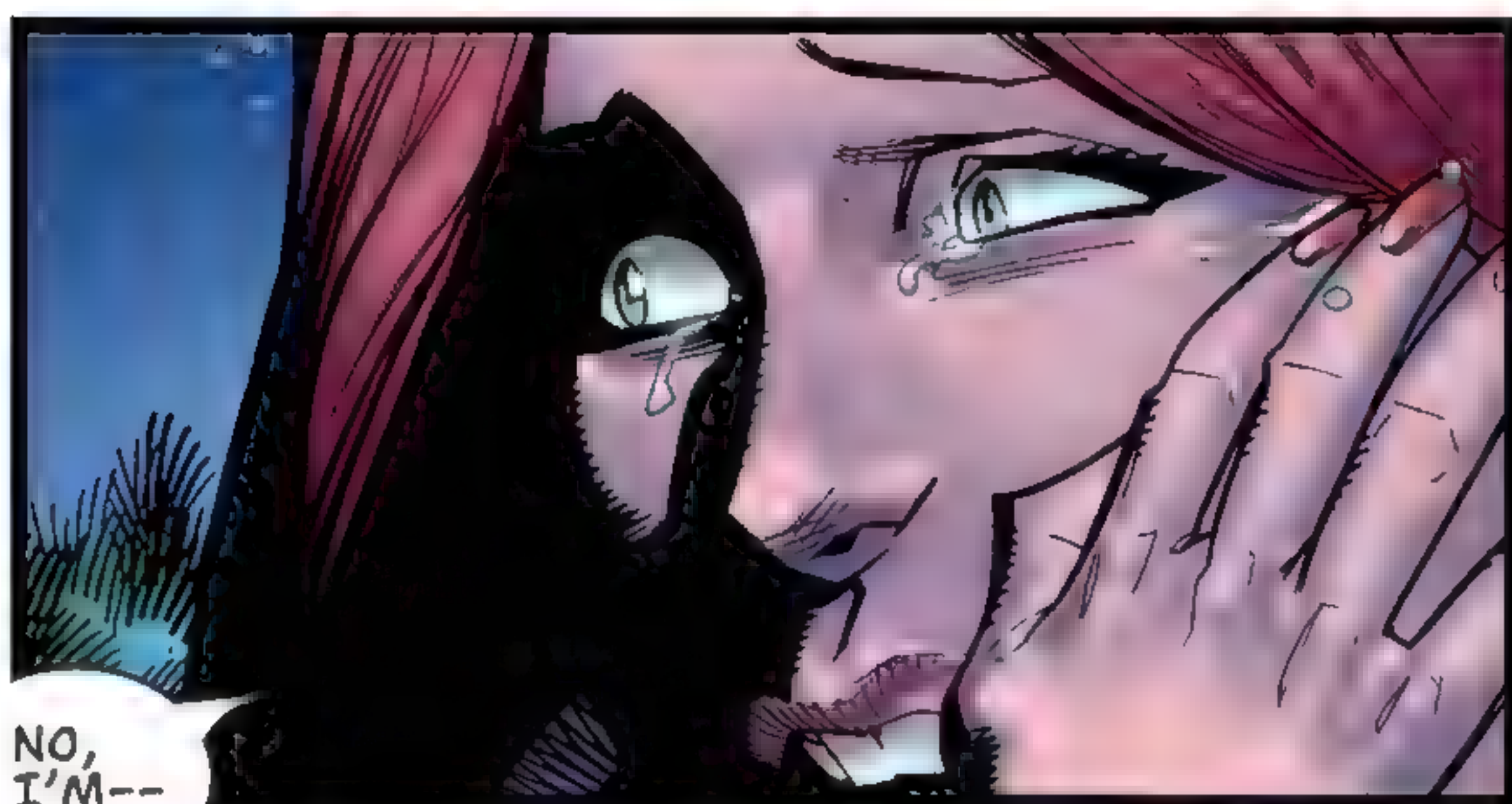


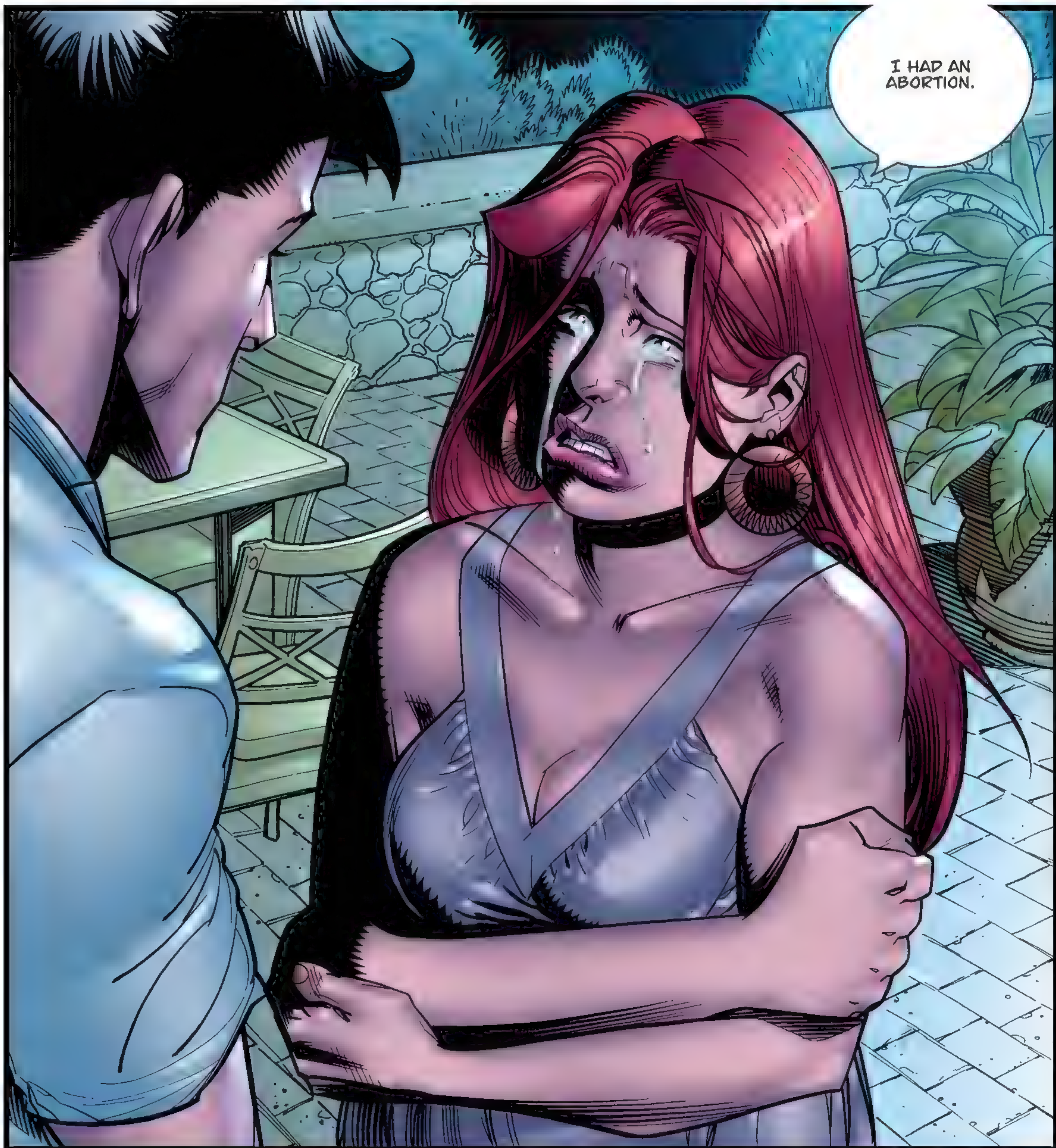


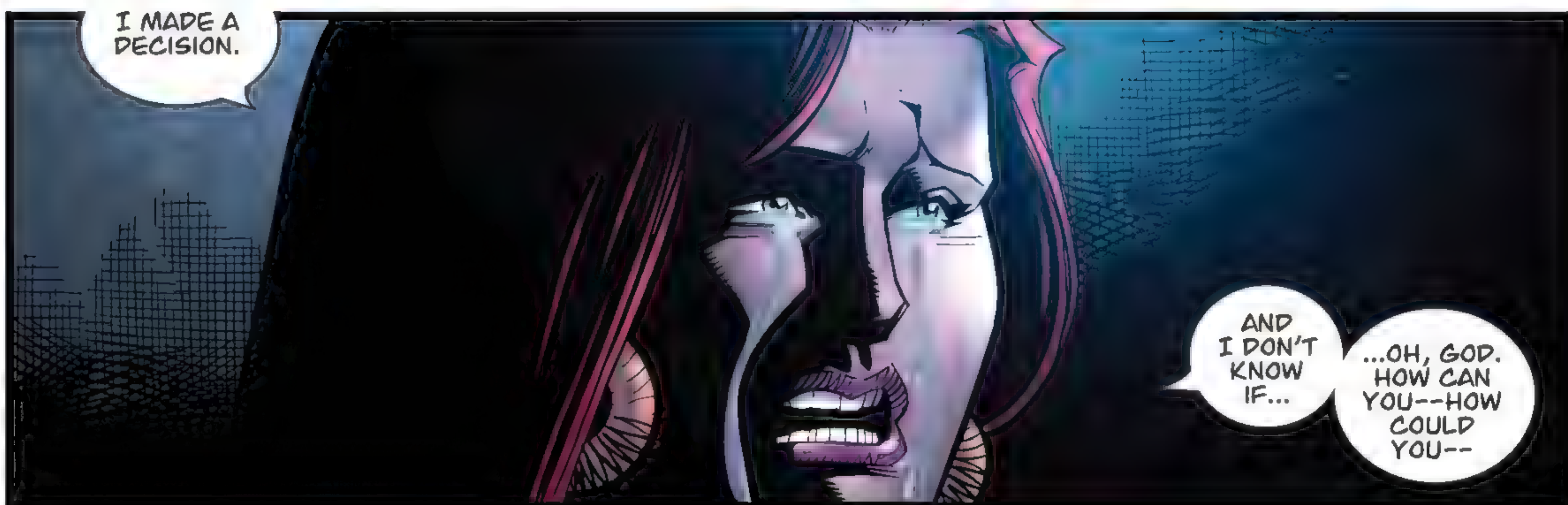
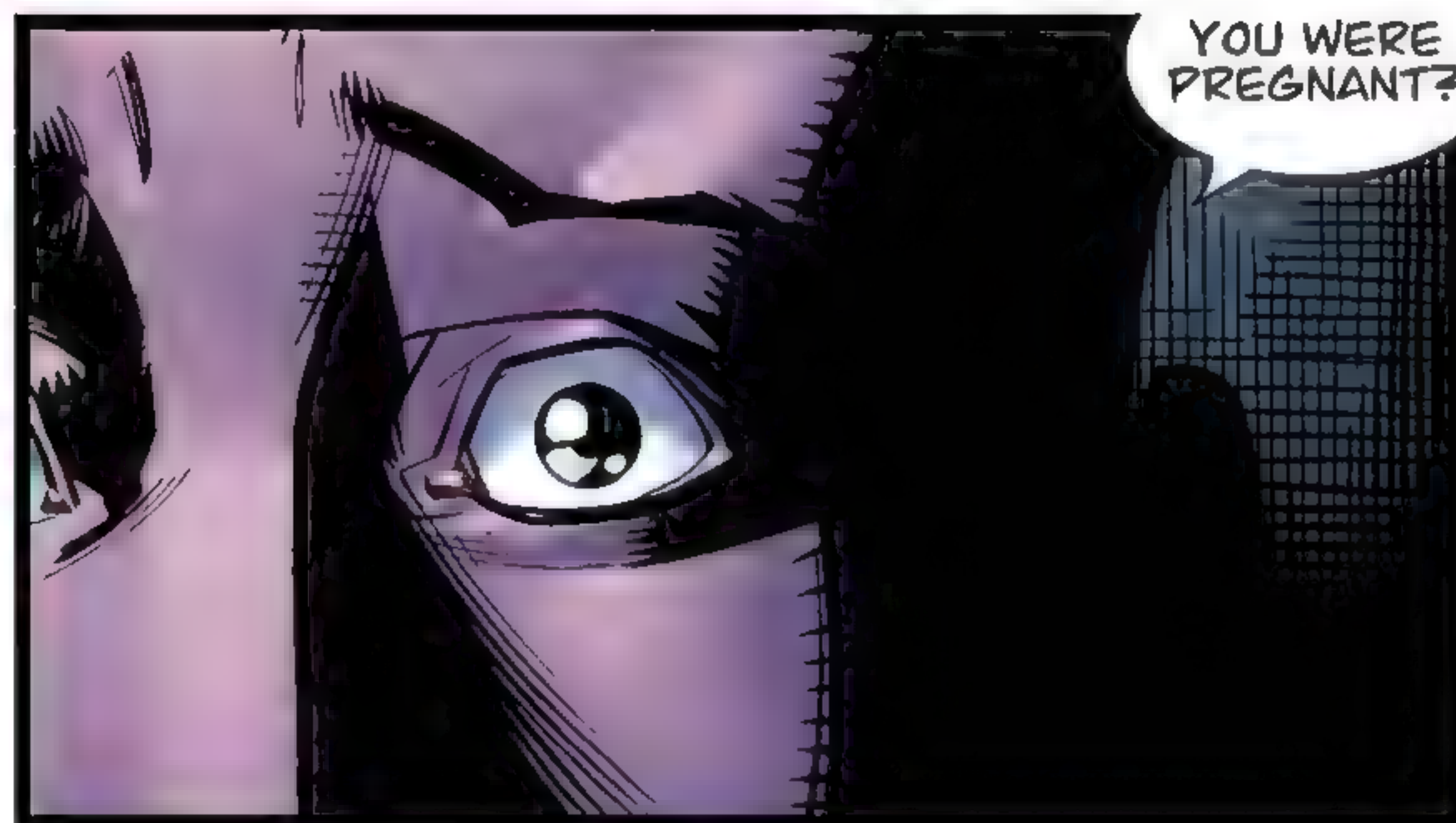






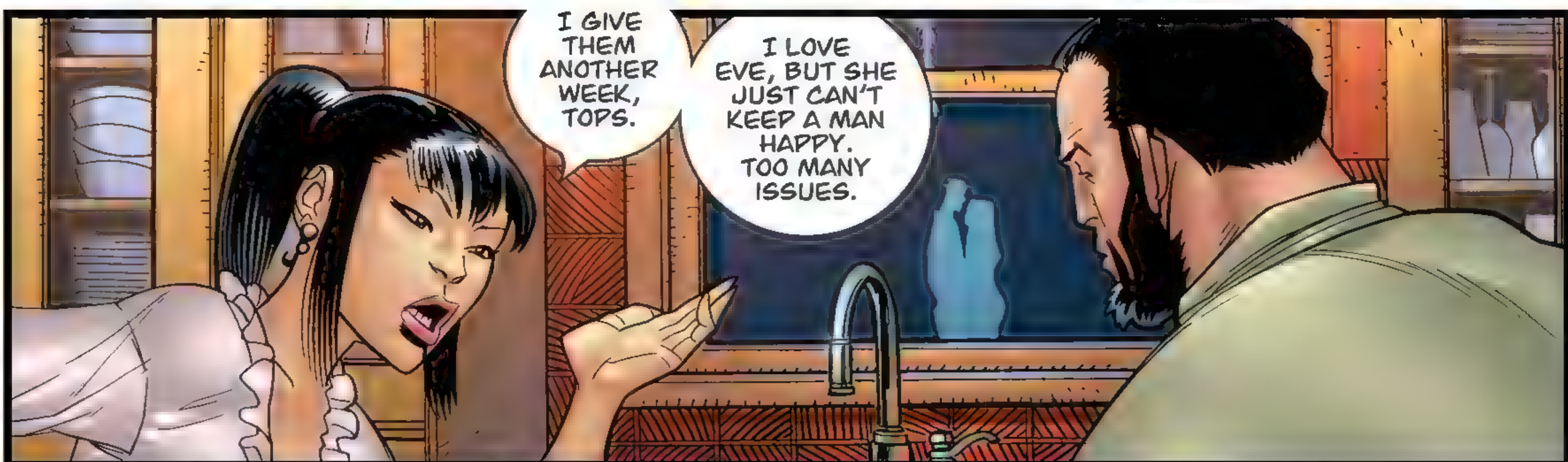
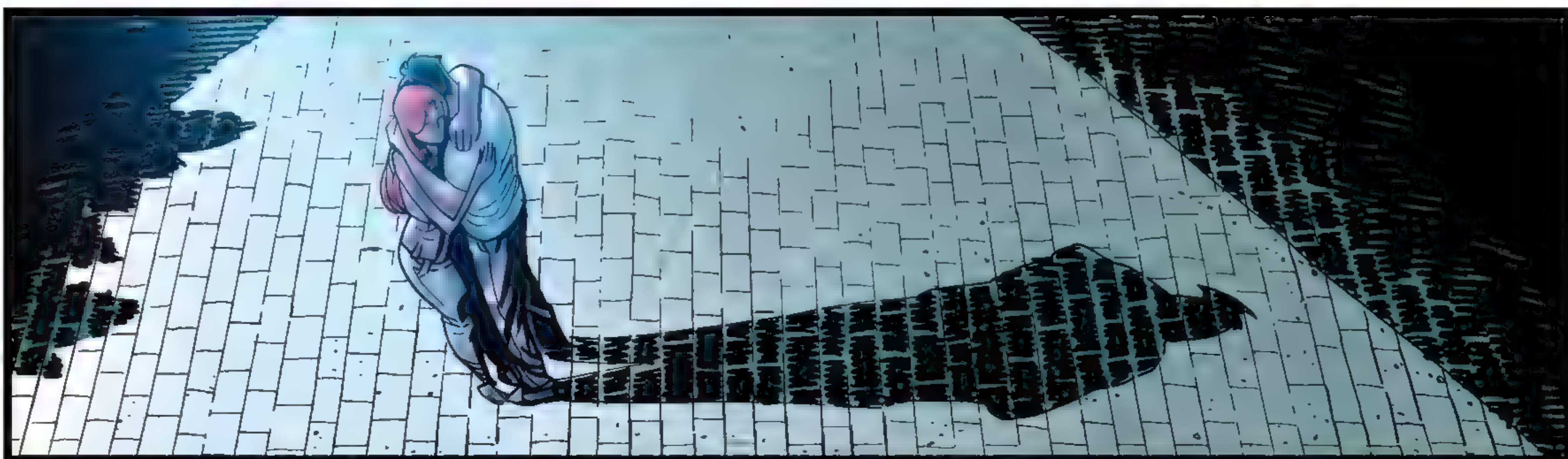
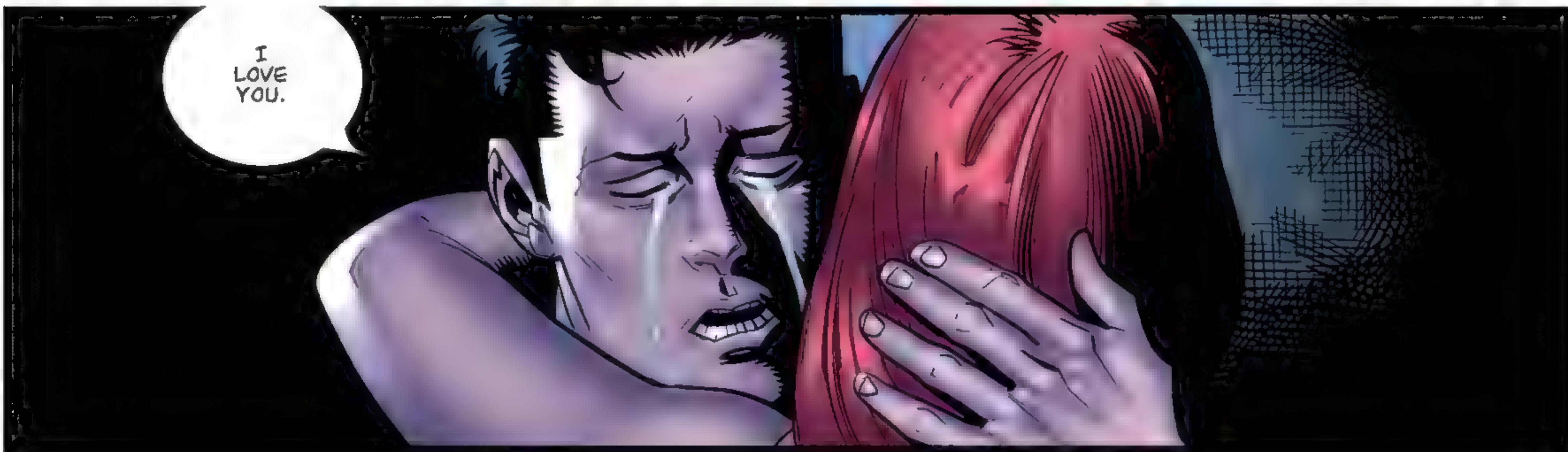






I'M
SORRY
I DID THIS
TO YOU.







WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM



Welcome Invincipals,

Editor Sina Grace here, excited to bring you Invincible a month after its previous issue! We promise to do that more often.

Hopefully, now that The Viltrumite War is behind us... we can do this every month like we're supposed to... (Robert in italics)

Please give Nikos Koutsis a warm welcome. He's coloring these pages all the way from Greece! Robert didn't have to look hard to find him, however... check out his work on Erik Larsen's Savage Dragon!

Yes, Nikos is going to be filling in on our next batch of issues while colorist FCO Plascencia takes a break to get caught up on a few things before he returns. I've long admired Nikos' coloring on Savage Dragon and Image United and so we're thrilled to have him on board (along with Mike Toris his coloring assistant).

The Viltrumite War may be over, but your feelings about its events are not! I'll shut up now because these letters are LONG WINDED!

Dear Kirkman and Co,

I would like to start by expressing straight away that I would love for this letter not to be full of ass-kissing clichés like the usual letters page content... However due to the fact that your work is at such a high standard I will go through the usual routine like so: Invincible is a wonderful comic; The universe is rich and colourful, the characters are lovable and fleshed out, the art is intricate and detailed, the writing is well-crafted and perfectly handled and the colours are so vibrant and vivid that you really feel like you have plunged head-first into a comic book universe. Phew... There. I would also like to say that this (along with the Savage Dragon letter I'm writing simultaneously) is the first letter I've ever written so excuse me if I'm rusty.

My introduction to Image was probably very similar to most people's: Tired of Marvel's endless events, millions of books, multiple tie-ins and crossovers, hundreds of variant covers, online 'Death Of' hyping and concepts such as " Let's erase 20 years of precious character history, sticking up a finger to not only OUR OWN continuity but to legions of fans too..." Need I say more? (It is important to say that despite me being super-pissed, I still follow the wall-crawler in the hope my favourite character will be returned to former glory) My discovery of Invincible was my introduction to not only creator-owned comics but a whole new wave and approach of funny book making. This has inspired me as I've always wanted to make comics myself (since I was 9) and now creator-owned seems like a viable option leading to me creating a library of over 50 of my own characters. It feels like you guys are trying to recapture what made Marvel so great in there hay-day and so far: You are succeeding. Well Invincible eventually led to me discovering all the Kirk-titles as well as Beard-master's favourite book: The Savage Dragon, which is now, along with Invincible, my favourite book on the shelves. Well, now that the ass-kissing is aside I have some Questions and comments:

1) Do you plan on returning to the dude in England who keeps getting throttled with flying bin bags?

Mabes.

Eventually. Never let it be said that I don't let subplots go on for... years, no matter how trivial they may seem.

2) Is there going to be more of a focus on Invincible's rogues gallery soon? I mean he has a fair few villains but not many recur and are fleshed out...

This issue. You just got it. Next issue, too.

And we'll be seeing a lot more of this coming up. Dinosaurus, Powerplex, Universa, Tether Tyrant and Magmaniac... they're all getting a moment to shine in upcoming issues.

3) Cliff Rathburn in my opinion doesn't get the credit he is due, his inks are incredible and his art is even better, will you be utilizing this talent and giving him a book to work FULLY on?

Reaper volume 2. Coming soon!

4) Has Ryan ever really said how long he plans on sticking around? We all hope its forever but also know that isn't really probable...

'Til he stops delivering the work of his lifetime.

And hopefully long after he's at his peak. I'm hoping that Ryan and I can drag this book into the gutter together as we get old, lazy and less talented. Then we can pass it along to a couple of young punks who can save the book from us and restore it to its former glory. It'll be great!

And finally
5) What did you all think of the conclusion to Emperor Dragon?

Epic.

Way awesome. It's great when a storyline that takes place AFTER issue 150 can be your favorite storyline of a series. It was just great. Larsen's still got it.

I mean Wow, you have competition guys! Thanks.

Wait, seriously... this is the same letter? The guy keeps going? Oh, boy...

Now this isn't really a question but more of an observation... I have noticed Mr Kirkman that you are something of an expert when it comes to nearly kills... What I mean is that you trick us into (or make it appear as though) a character is dead when in fact they are not. Lets go through the list shall we?

Immortal- Killed multiple times and returns.
Allen- Completely and utterly dismembered by (was it 3?) Viltrumites, Heals and wakes up in bed.
Robot- Pounded to S@!*% by the Mauler Twins... Okay you can have that one.
Luca- Guts ripped out by Nolan, Heals.
Angstrom Levy- Face punched into a bloody mass of entrails, somehow revived. (see what I did there? Issue 76 hint)
Rexplode- Shot point blank in the head, survives.
DupliKate- Supposedly massacred alongside Rex yet returns.
Atom Eve- Hole punched through her and revives.
Conquest- Burnt, bitten, punched and head-butted to death until face is nothing but a mush of brain juice and broken teeth, Lives. (will he survive Mark's strangling and Nolan's burying?...YES!)
NO!
Mark- Hole right through him as well as several ribs breaking his skin with that traditional Viltrumite knife-hand action, heals.
Oliver- Jaw broken off and arm torn to shreds, supposedly dead but not.
Nolan- Hole punched through him, Yet heals before Mark (wha?!)

So there you have it Robert nearly-kill Kirkman, that's all your main characters man! I'm sure I'm missing some too... Come on dude, if you wanna kill a character, just kill them! Don't slaughter them, make us watch and cry, then bring them back... (and yes I know half of them are Viltrumites, but still its no excuse!)

Now the Oliver and Conquest ones confuse me and seem to contradict each other... Apparently Oliver survived because Viltrumites can survive without oxygen for prolonged periods of time... So are we really supposed to believe that a veteran (and arguably the most powerful) Viltrumite soldier can be strangled to death which is essentially cutting off someone's oxygen? Couldn't his throat simply heal over time like... Oh I don't know... HIS ENTIRE FACE DID! Either this is a set-up for the return of a nemesis or there are holes in your logic Kirk-the-man!

Conquest is dead. Mark cut off his oxygen (remember, he mentioned that he winded Conquest with a blow and then prevented him from taking a breath) until his BRAIN DIED. So that dude is totally dead, buried, gone, over. Oliver lived, partly due to the fact that he's a Viltrumite but also due to some part of him that he got from his mother's race. Simply put, his brain didn't die due to lack of oxygen. Maybe his brain requires slightly less oxygen than other Viltrumites... but the fact that Conquest died and Oliver didn't... totally explained.

As far as the near death thing goes... people die in this comic all the time... and people get the holy hell beaten out of them all the time. Half of the instances you mentioned were cases where you were never led to believe the character was actually dead. But whatever.

It's a well I probably go too far too often, it's true. It's a fair criticism. You've also only mentioned the ones that happened in THIS book. It's happened a lot in Walking Dead and other comics I've written.

I write a lot of books! There's bound to be some overlap.

Anyway despite how wonderful this arc has been and how excited I am to see how it ends (As well as Thragg's abrupt change of heart... Hmmm) I will definitely be happy when Invincible is back home on earth. Space is fun but because the action has been so huge and so epic (75 was the most gorgeous issue of any comic I've ever read) the book has been slower and it will be nice to get back to Eve (WHA BABY!?) and crew. Plus the blood has been just so frequent and desensitizing it will be nice to have a break (we get it, Wya can draw violence!)

You keep writing and I'll keep reading,

Your biggest British fan,
James Dixon

p.s Please print the letter as it would be awesome to have my name in an Invincible comic for eternity!!! Next step: Artist duties, I'll climb the ladder! (sorry about the length of this thing)

Your letter was epic, James. Still doesn't beat my eight-page, hand-written letter to Fathom with hand-made trading cards. #undefeated

Yeah... that's a victory, Sina. Sure.

Dear Cassius Coleman from Invincible #77's Penvincipals,

I really can't relate to your initial disinterest in Invincible based on the artwork in the early issues. Glad to hear you're coming around now though. I'm going to agree with you that the art is at its absolute best in the newest issues, but I certainly wouldn't say that Cory Walker's old pencils or any other aspect of the art from the older issues is in any way dissatisfying. Before Walker's recent guest pencils, I would've said that Ryan Ottley is easily the better artist. Walker's new style (which can also be seen in Destroyer, a great mini-series--as much as I hate to plug Marvel) might even put him a step above Ottley. I can't decide. The point is, the art has always been great, and it's only getting better.

In the ever-constant battle between "Who is the better Invincible artist" argument, I can say that the only winner is the reader. Both Cory and Ryan up their ante every time they throw lines on paper, so whoever lives longer will be the one to upstage the other.

Eat your Wheaties, guys!

As for the writing, I think you're reading it wrong. Now just wait; hear me out. I think you're hung up on the typical superhero formula, and that's what you're looking for here in Invincible. What sets this book apart from all those other superhero books—making it “the best superhero comic book in the universe”—is Kirkman's ability to draw us in with the superhero genre tropes we've grown so comfortable with, and then take them in a fresh direction.

You decided straight away that you didn't like Oliver because you thought you already knew what kind of character he was going to be, and made up your mind about his function in the progression of the story. Of course he'll turn bad and eventually be one of Mark's greatest foes. Except he didn't. When that didn't work out, it became clear that he was not so much a character as a plot device designed to further develop Mark's character and motivation through his death at the hands of the villains. Whoops, Kirkman faked us out again. He didn't use that tired old crutch with Atom Eve either. (I almost doubted him that time though!) He's a better writer than that. He's writing real characters, not just the typical “badass” male lead who depends on clichés like the murdered love interest/family member/best friend for motivation.

In the early issues of the series, we're introduced to the original Guardians of the Globe which is composed entirely of stock characters. Then, they're all wiped out by Omni-Man, who isn't quite as Superman as we thought he was. Instead of being murdered to provide the lead character with his superhero motive, the father figure in this book turns out to be evil. He's not Superman after all, so we figure he's going to be Darth Vader. By now, we know he's neither. He's a deeper character—torn, conflicted, confused. He turns out to be not all bad, so we expect him to go out in a blaze of glory—hoisting Emperor Palpatine into an abyss and sacrificing his life to make things right. Nope. Now what? Well, that's the point. We don't know what's next, and that's what makes Kirkman's books the best.

Robert > Star Wars?

Definitely not.

Now that you're finally onboard, maybe you should go back and give the earlier issues another try? Read 'em right this time, okay?

Keep it Kirkman (does that work as a “make mine Marvel” alternative?), Joseph Gray

Dang, Joseph, is this actually your college thesis that you're calling “fanmail,” to get published? That was pretty intense.

The letters in this issue are crazy! Short letter next please!

I just wanted to write in and say that Invincible is the best book on the market! I eagerly await each month (sometimes a little longer...damn Walking Dead!) for that magical Wednesday. As a reader of all things Kirkman, I will tell you it is hard to pick a favorite. Having read Invincible a few times through, I instantly am compelled to read it again. I own a movie store (but comics are a huge part of it as well), and I talk up your books all day long. Goes a little something like this: “When I first picked it up I was expecting something completely different than the direction you have taken us. You kids out there not reading Invincible, stop reading the 25 different Wolverine books and pick up this damn book! We all like Wolvie, but it's the same stuff. And for the love of God, Ryan Ottley is a damn fine artist. Have you seen what passes for art over at Marvel? Horrendous!!! I have seen better drawings by 5 year olds. The guy can flat-out draw! Great job! Robert Kirkman is the best writer out there and buy this book, if you don't like it bring it back no questions asked.” Something to that effect.

Robert, I talked to you via conference call about a year ago and that day good sir, was one of the highlights of my life. You are hands down the best mind in comics (maybe the world). Thank you all for putting out the best stuff in comics! I would also like to thank my local comic store...Bell's Comics in Grove City PA for carrying your books.

Thanks everyone for your time
-Ron Solo

Ps. SINA RULES!

No, YOU RULE.

Man, how come when I talked to Robert via conference call this morning it felt great, but it wasn't a highlight... not really.

Thanks for your support, Ron! You keep buying them, Robert will keep making them!

I'll try harder to make our conference calls more epic, Sina. I don't mean to let you down.

Dear sirs

I've got into invincible via the 'returns' issue - so thank you.

Just wondered if they'd be any chance of a weekly, (ala, TWD,) so I can play catch-up and add them to my collector's box; rather than having to buy trade books (not my cup of tea).

Thanks for your time

Joel N Elias

No plans for an Invincible Weekly—yet! But even with some of the news we've revealed about upcoming Invincible stories (anyone go to WonderCon?), we will have something HUGE to share in about a month.

Plus, why aren't you just buying the hard cover editions?

If there was ever something like an Invincible television show, that's when we'd do Invincible weekly. So, uh... call some networks, dudes.

Dear Kirkman,

Powerful and fun enough for--the old Thumbs Up!

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Shaw

You are so gone from these letter columns, maybe recent events will make you react in a more jocular and irate fashion.

Really, Shaw... such a let down.

Hi Kirkman and Co.,

I just flipped through issue 77 for the second time (I read it first over the weekend) and I must say, you all finally did it. You finally managed to disturb me with the awesome visuals you all provide every month, just a bit. One can spend quite a bit of time scanning over those images from Mark's head, and in doing so, you can find some seriously messed up stuff. The Pop Top Cecil shot was an interesting way to start the show...

Hey, it's better than a Muffin Top Cecil shot!

The second go around, I caught the Martian entrails, the Death by Ponytail, and the pwnag3 of our favorite Wolfman... I guess Eve's terrified look as she got the ultimate Judo Chop kind of stole the show for me the first time around, but there is some really nice (and yes, disturbing) artwork here. Props to you folks, the pencils and the colors really shine as always.

Pwnag3. I love when the fans add to the destruction of language.

I'm curious to see what the fan's reactions are to what you have done here. I am finding Thragg to be an oddly...compelling character to read. I was curious as to why he let the Graysons live after the destruction of Viltrum, but I have to say that didn't see the whole “Earth Integration” thing coming at all. This is why Thragg intrigues me so.

Showing the signs of a true leader, Thragg puts all thoughts of revenge aside for the preservation of the Viltrumite race as a whole... That takes some real integrity, I'm sure, considering he could easily squash the two “traitors” responsible for the destruction of their home planet. I'm starting to think that the Viltrumites aren't really all that bad... However, that is some dangerous thinking. I am glad they will be around on Earth for a while, though, and I am curious to see where things go from here.

The Viltrumite War has been a ton of fun...and now, I wonder what Eve has been up to?

See ya next time,

Cam Stylez

By now you know exactly what's been going on with Eve.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

First off I'd like to thank you for ALL of the work you do but especially for Invincible. I hadn't picked up a comic book in any form for over 20 years until two years ago when I got the itch again and discovered Invincible. The tone of this book is what does it for me (Walker and now Ottley's art is amazing btw). It's very serious yet at the same time witty and light hearted. I can't wait to see where things go now that the Viltrumite War is over.

That also brings me to my question... do you have any sort of plans for this book, if and believe me I am not hoping this happens, if you were to expire form this earth prematurely? Would the rights be sold to say some other publisher or would you have someone else take up the mantle and still publish through Skybound/Image, or would we just no longer have this great universe of characters to follow?

Oh man, seriously good question. Robert would never let me take over, because then I would be making characters gay, and doing all sorts of really liberal stuff like talking about women's rights... shoot, I'd probably make Invincible black! #waitamminute

Hah. Good one, Sina. So... man... do I hate getting this question. My go to answer is... I DON'T CARE... I'll be dead! I'm sorry you won't get to read Invincible and I'm sure that sucks and all... BUT I'LL BE DEAD! Think of me... that would really suck for me.

Thanks for your time, and again thank you for all the fun!

Thorzhamer

Seriously, Robert... what would you do?

I'd be dead!

Mr. Kirkman and Crew

I just wanted to say thanks for all the hard work and great stories and art that you guys put into Invincible and in that matter all of your books. I got back into comics maybe two years ago. I quit when I was younger because of Two major events in my life.

The first was when they took the adamantium out of Wolverine. I thought no fucking way that's Wolverine they can't do that to him. (Which now reading my back issues it was pretty damn cool) The second and lastly the real death of buying comic books was I found Pot or should I say it found me. Now my 20 bucks mowing lawns went to reefer madness instead of Marvel. But I am back now and even have my kids hooked on comics can't wait till they get older and are able to read your work. Thanks again man.

Michael Ambrosini

Hey Michael, you never answered the million dollar questions: do you still smoke pot? And more importantly: are you going to get your kids hooked on weed, too?

Yikes. Video games, 3D movies... and now we've got to compete with pot, too?!

Check back with us in another month as the boys deliver more mayhem and fun than a bucket of Dinosauruses.

Make sure you go and buy the collected version of The Viltrumite War. It's kind of amazing to read it all in one sitting, plus the sketchbook section is always too good to be missed.

And again: we've opened up an on-line store! For months we had been getting requests to put this stuff online, and now you can pick up our goodies from the conventions and some new merch, to boot! Woot!

Check it out: www.skyboundent.com/shop

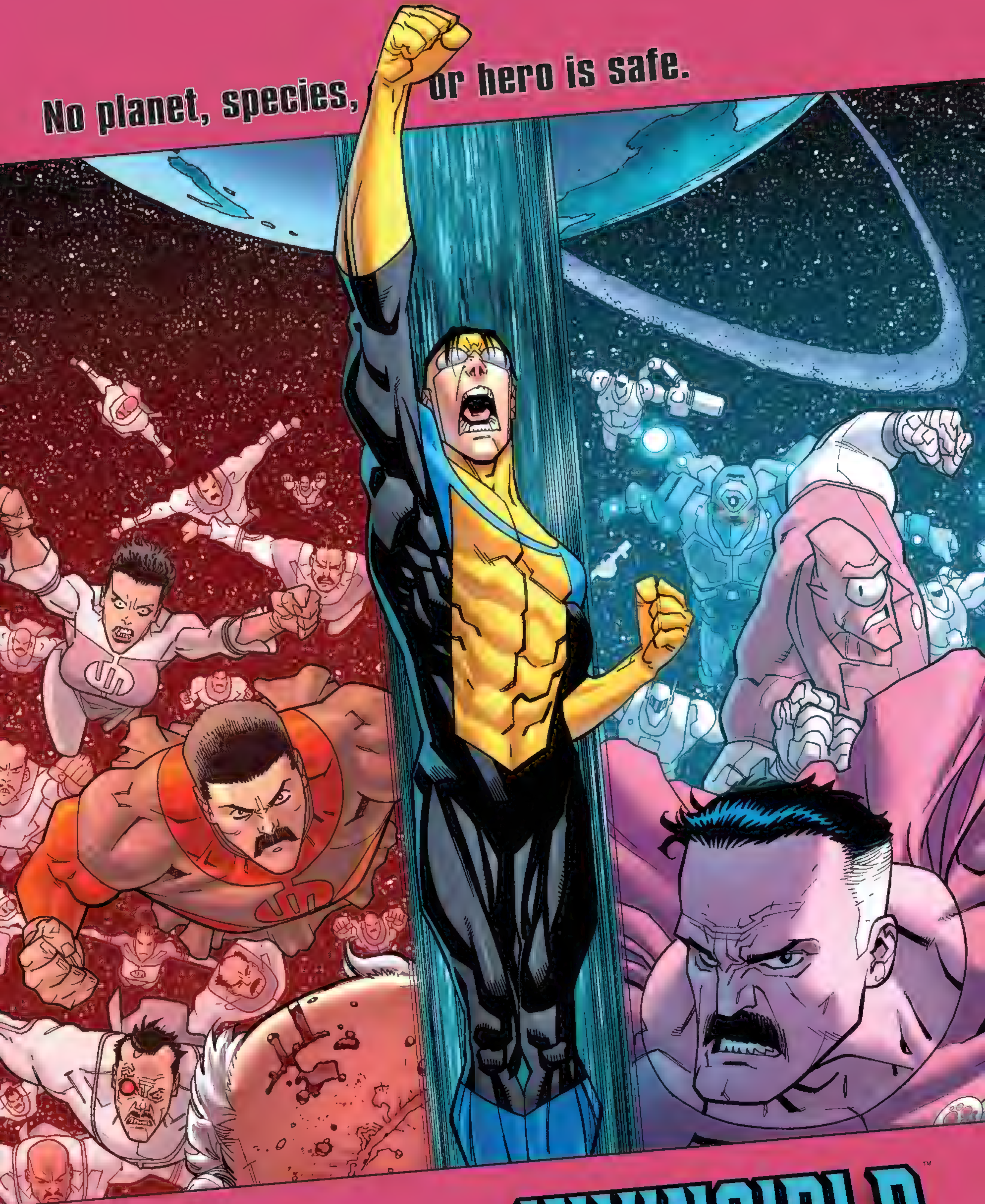
'Til #80,

-Sina Grace

See you then!

-Robert Kirkman

No planet, species, or hero is safe.



ON SALE IN APRIL

Written by **ROBERT KIRKMAN**
Illustrated by
RYAN OTTLEY & FCO PLASCENCIA

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INVINCIBLE™

VOLUME 14: THE VILTRUMITE WAR

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The fate of the world rests on the shoulders
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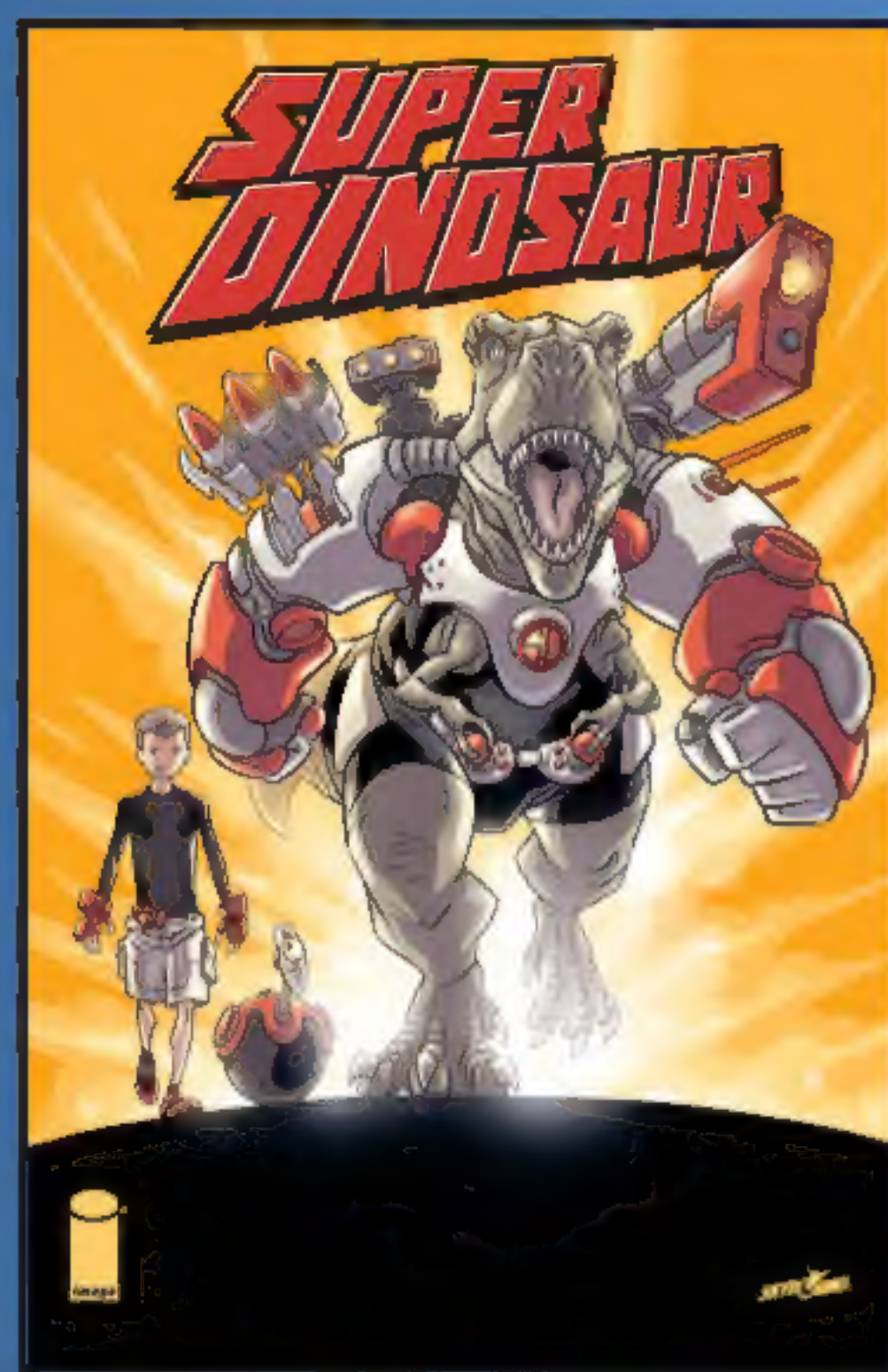
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